Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support Bordallo's "Bonitan Tåsi" bill, which would give Guam management rights over the Marianas Marine Monument?

Yes	22
No	126

Sunday, February 07, 2010

INSIDE

Snowmageddon

Washington D.C. took on a surreal, feel as it was buried under nearly 2 feet of snow Saturday.

NATION...Page 15

Arrest Warrant

An arrest warrant is issued for a Philippine senator who fled the country to avoid murder charges.

ASIA...Page 16

Young Matador

A 16-year-old Spanish matador killed six bulls in one afternoon Saturday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Alleged abuse of govt vehicles, funds at the Man'Amko Center

> I've been told that after donations are made, these donations disappear without even reaching the *man'amko*.
>
> —Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan)

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan) has asked the Office of the Public Auditor to conduct a full audit of the Office on Aging from September 2009 to Dec. 15, 2009, after learning of alleged misuse of government vehicles and federal funds for the purchase of meat, vegetables and other items for political events.

See ABUSE on Page 4

FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSE

The finalists in the Marianas Bikini Open 2010 show what they've got during a presentation to the public at the Hard Rock Café in Garapan on Saturday night. The finals night will be held on Feb. 12 at the same venue. Proceeds of the event will be given to the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, said pageant organizer Sharmaine Casquero.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See more photos on Page 18.

Fitial, DOC chief issue affidavits

Two other DOC officers make declarations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial stated in his affidavit that when masseuse Qingmei Cheng provided him massage therapy in his house on Jan. 8 he never asked her about her criminal case and never made promises to her.

"I needed the masseuse's help and was only able to go to sleep with her assistance. I also recall that I did not ask her

See FITIAL on Page 4

Increase in food stamp benefits for Rota, Tinian pushed again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) has asked for updates from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Commerce Secretary Michael Ada and Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao on efforts last year to increase the food stamp benefits for Rota and Tinian residents.

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Commerce and OPM chiefs reappointed to posts. PAGE 3

NMC had 18 resignations, 26 new hires in 2009. **PAGE 5**

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Local

Babauta: No new hires at DPL for the moment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After completing a full assessment of personnel needs, newly appointed Department of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said Friday that he will enforce the "status quo" at the agency.

Babauta said there are about 60 employees working for the department on Saipan, Rota and Tinian. He claimed that this is 30 percent lower than in previous years.

He described the current staffing as "stable" although a few divisions do need more personnel. Babauta said some division managers have asked for the hiring of more personnel to augment staffing needs in specific areas.

He said, though, that he has no plans to hire or add new employees at present.

Instead, he said he will encourage pursuing new strategies that would not severely impact the agency's fiscal state.

"I informed my division managers to assess the office needs and I would like to implement cross-utilization of staff. This way, we can maximize the resources we have at the agency," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that DPL is operating under the continuing budget ceiling of less than $3 million this fiscal year, with $2.075 million going to personnel's salaries and $935,000 for operational costs.

Babauta

"With the government's financial condition, I decided to place on status quo all the human staffing needs at the agency. Until such time I fully re-assess the department's needs and if it warrants that there's an urgent need of technical people or administrative help…I will make that decision in the future," he said.

Babauta said his agency fully supports reinstating austerity holidays, if called for by the Fitial administration.

"DPL would definitely be part of that call for austerity measures… because each and every department should contribute to our government which is in dire financial state," he said.

Four priorities

Babauta cited four priorities at DPL under his leadership. These include keeping up the financial condition of the department, closely monitoring commercial leases, working on pending homesteads on Tinian and Saipan, and working on building the necessary infrastructure in Kagman homesteads such as wastewater and road pavements.

He emphasized that since commercial public land leases are a big revenue source for the government, DPL would revisit all existing agreements to ensure that all policies are being adhered to.

Last week, DPL began taking down unauthorized billboards/signboards on public lands to make sure all public land resources are properly accounted for.

In his first week in office, he said he already saw two small businesses requesting to terminate their leases with DPL as a result of the continuous decline in the economy.

Babauta said the agency would collaboratively work with companies to see how the agency can assist them.

"Our goal is to see these businesses continue. We need to reassess and take a look at what needs to be done and how we can help them," Babauta added.

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Commerce and OPM chiefs reappointed to posts

Range master also named deputy DPS commissioner

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reappointed Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada and Personnel Director Isidro K. Seman, who are both now serving in acting capacities until confirmed by the Senate.

Ada and Seman are Fitial's seventh and eighth Cabinet appointees or re-appointees needing the advice and consent of the Senate.

Fitial, who is serving his second term in office, has been announcing his Cabinet and other political appointees after reviewing the results of the transition committee reports on the reviews of executive branch departments and agencies.

The governor also reappointed Ambrosio Ogumoro as range master for the Department of Public Safety. In addition to his responsibilities as range master, Ogumoro has also been appointed deputy commissioner for DPS, according to Press Secretary Angel A. Demapan.

In a statement during the weekend, Fitial said he and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos "are very pleased with Mr. Ada's performance and we are confident that his experience as the secretary of Commerce will be an asset to the Commonwealth."

Ada has been Commerce secretary since 2008, and has played a pivotal role as the CNMI's point of contact for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

Fitial also cited Seman's many years of service and his managerial and organizational skills. Seman's appointment as director of the Office of Personnel Management and required confirmation stems from Publlic Law 13-1, Section 3.

So far, the Fitial administration has announced the following Cabinet members needing Senate confirmation:

- Santiago F. Tudela, reappointed as Department of Public Safety commissioner.
- Martin C. Sablan, appointed as DPW secretary to replace Diego Songsong who stepped down in January to pursue studies off-island.
- Former Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, appointed new Department of Public Lands secretary to replace John S. DelRosario, who stepped down from his post.
- Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, reappointed secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.
- Adam Hardwicke, reappointed Public Defender.
- Melvin L.O. Faisao, reappointed as secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.
- Michael Ada, reappointed secretary of the Department of Commerce.
- Isidro K. Seman, reappointed director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Other appointees and re-appointees that do not need Senate confirmation include: Sixto Igisomar, deputy secretary for Commerce; Rose Mondala, director for the Office on Aging; Eleanor S. Cruz, director for the Nutrition Assistance Program; David R. Maratita, director of Commerce's Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division; Esther S. Fleming, special assistant for administration; Patrick P. Tenorio, special assistant for homeland security; Joaquin Omar, director of the Emergency Management Office; and Virginia C. Villagomez, special assistant for the Office of Management and Budget.

Public health launches extensive flu ad campaigns

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has initiated an extensive public education campaign to further raise public awareness about the need to be vaccinated against the H1N1 virus.

Besides a recently launched Web site on the H1N1 flu, public health officials will also be installing five billboards across the CNMI conveying the same message. One of these billboards was unveiled Friday across the Commonwealth Health Center in the presence of visiting officials from the Centers for Disease Control.

Supported by DPH partner Matua Riders, the billboard contains the message "Get the flu vaccine." The Matua Riders, led by president Ed Flores, volunteer as "flu police" during the department's vaccination campaigns in schools and communities.

Four other billboards will be installed next week, according to DPH.

Saipan Tribune learned that in the first week of the Web site's launch (http://h1n1dph.gov.mp), DPH has already had over a hundred hits that continue to increase each day.

ON THE NET
- http://h1n1dph.gov.mp

Because a lot of people will be watching the Super Bowl today, DPH will feature five 30-second television ads during the game.

The Flu Watch campaign and Trench Tech are also collaborating to fight the flu and would provide 10 free tickets to the Rites of Passage event on Feb. 12. Tickets will be raffled to participating middle and high schools on Saipan.

DPH also distributed Safe Campaign stickers last Friday.

As of January, a total of 22,910 individuals have already availed of the flu vaccines in the Commonwealth.

To date, no one in the CNMI has died due to complications arising from the H1N1 flu. Neighboring Guam has had two deaths last year.

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Urine-soaked futon allegedly causes spat

Police arrested on Thursday on Tinian a man who allegedly slapped his wife for putting his urine-soaked futon outside their house.

Lowery Nowel Lowery, 44, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

During Friday's hearing at the Saipan Superior Court, associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $1,500 unsecured bond for Lowery's temporary liberty.

Detective Barbara K. Arend stated in her report that the wife had said that whenever Lowery gets drunk he would pee on the futon.

The victim told police that when she came home from work on Jan. 31 at 7:30pm, she cleaned their room and put Lowery's futon outside to dry it.

Lowery, who was drinking outside with some neighbors, allegedly yelled at the wife for putting his futon outside.

When she explained that it was soaked with urine because he was drunk the night before, he allegedly got mad and slapped her.

Lowery allegedly tried to slap her again but a neighbor intervened and pulled the defendant away from her.

That's when the victim called the Department of Public Safety to complain about her husband, Arend said.

The victim said it was not the first time Lowery beat her up. She said they had a previous domestic violence case on Saipan and that she is tired of getting beaten up whenever Lowery gets drunk. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Applicants sought for $55M grant funds

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has invited state departments of agriculture in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to submit applications for grant funds under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill.

USDA announced last week the availability of about $55 million for block grants to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service administers the program.

Each state that submits an application that is reviewed and approved by AMS will receive a minimum grant amount of at least $100,000, or up to one-third of 1 percent of the total amount of funding made available in fiscal year 2010, whichever is greater.

In addition, AMS will allocate the remainder of the grant funds based on the value of specialty crop production in each state in relation to the national value of specialty crop production using the latest available cash receipt data. ***(USDA)***

INCREASE

From Page 1

Ayuyu, who is the chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, wrote separate letters to Sablan, Ada and Faisao on Thursday.

He attached in his letter to Sablan and Ada a comparison of prices for some basic consumer goods sold on Rota and Saipan.

The disparities in the prices of basic consumer goods among the islands, which could be shown in a compilation and recalculation of the consumer price index, are keys to justifying the need to increase the food stamp benefits on Rota and Tinian.

Despite higher prices of basic commodities on Rota and Tinian than on Saipan, food stamp beneficiaries on the two islands get the same level of benefits as those on Saipan.

For example, a 50-lb bag of rice costs $45.95 on Rota, while the same item is sold on Saipan at $32.95 to $34.95.

One can of Spam on Rota costs $3.39 to $3.50, while on Saipan it's sold at $2.29 to $2.39.

A whole, 30-lb chicken on Rota is sold at $82.50 to $89.70, while the same item is sold at $34.95 to $36.95 on Saipan.

"As you are aware, the new CPI data will be a key factor in our efforts to increase benefits for Rota and Tinian residents who are recipients under the Nutrition Assistance Program," Ayuyu told Ada.

The federally funded NAP is administered locally by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Ayuyu, in his letter to Faisao, offered the Senate's help to DCCA "in ensuring that the Northern Mariana Islands food stamp program continues to avail of the benefits it is eligible to receive."

"It is my understanding that as the administering authority, [DCCA] has the ability to negotiate with the United States Department of Agriculture as to the amount of assistance available. If the Senate can offer any support in this matter, please let me know how we may assist," he said.

On Nov. 2, 2009, Sablan wrote Gov. Benigno R. Fitial a letter, raising several questions regarding a memorandum of understanding between DCCA and USDA. In general, the four questions centered around steps DCCA might take to increase and/or maintain benefit levels in the CNMI food stamp program.

"I would like to follow up on these questios and inquire as to how DCCA has proceeded in its negotiations with USDA," Ayuyu told Faisao.

Sablan earlier told Fitial that USDA granted the delegate's request to conduct a comprehensive review of the current agreement between USDA and the CNMI on food stamps. Sablan said the CNMI may not be taking full advantage of the federal food stamp program to benefit more residents.

The CNMI's food stamp program saw an increase in household recipients from 2,551 in 2008 to 2,733 in 2009 and is expected to further increase in 2010.

FITIAL

From Page 1

about whatever legal situation she may now face and made no inquiries or promises to her of any kind," said Fitial in the affidavit dated Jan. 14, 2010.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, as counsel for DOC Commissioner Dolores M. Aldan, filed Friday his response to the U.S. government's reply in Aldan's motion to vacate the order for an evidentiary hearing and to quash subpoenas.

Buckingham attached in Aldan's reply Fitial's affidavit as well as the affidavit of Aldan, and declarations of DOC Capt. Georgia Cabrera, and Corrections Officer I Abigail Borja.

In his affidavit, Fitial said he has had various medical issues, including persistent back pain. "I had surgery on my spinal column from the neck to my lower back but continue to have pain," he said.

The governor said he has found massage therapy to be helpful for the temporary relief of back pain, including as aid to a restful sleep.

He said different massage therapists have had more or less some success in relieving his back pain and that one of the best has been Cheng.

Fitial said that beginning about Jan. 6, 2010, he began to experience more than the usual back pain.

"With the responsibilities I have to the Commonwealth I did not take time for massage therapy," he said.

The governor stated that on the night of Jan. 7 and continuing into the early morning hours of Jan. 8, 2010, he experienced severe back pain and was unable to sleep.

He said he tried to reach Cheng and found out that she was in custody.

Fitial said he spoke with Commissioner Aldan and asked her to contact Buckingham.

"I made this request because this was an unusual situation where I needed to address the extraordinary pain I was experiencing and also wanted to follow proper procedures before a detainee is released from custody, even if only temporarily," he said.

After his contact with Aldan, Fitial said, Cheng arrived at his residence.

He said Aldan and three other Corrections officers as well as his wife were present for the duration of Cheng's visit.

In her affidavit dated Jan. 14, 2010, Aldan said that, during the early morning hours of Jan. 8 she spoke with Fitial about him experiencing severe pain and requesting Cheng to provide him assistance.

"The governor said that he was unable to go to sleep. He also asked me to contact the Attorney General. I immediately tried to reach both the AG and Don Hall who works for the U.S. Marshals," Aldan said.

The commissioner said she is aware that they should coordinate on federal detainee removal from DOC prior to its occurrence.

"To the best of my recollection, I made about seven calls to the number I have for Deputy Hall and about six calls to the cell phone of the Attorney General. I did not receive any return call and was unable to speak with either the Attorney General or Deputy Hall," Aldan said.

The commissioner stated that she made a decision that a short, escorted visit from the DOC to the governor's residence was appropriate. She said she also decided that they should have extra security just in case there were any later questions.

"Accordingly, I directed that two captains, Arnold K. Seman and Georgia Cabrera, as well as Correctional officer Abigail Borja to accompany me to the governor's residence," Aldan said.

Aldan said when they arrived, Cheng proceeded to massage the governor.

She said all DOC members and the governor's wife were present during this period.

"The governor appeared to be in severe pain and didn't say much to Cheng except to let her know where it hurt and when it felt less painful. At some point during the massage therapy, the governor went to sleep. Cheng continued to perform massage therapy after the governor went to sleep," Aldan said.

Following the conclusion of the therapy, Aldan said she directed the return of Cheng to DOC.

Aldan said she then contacted both Hall and Buckingham early Friday morning on Jan. 8, to apprise them of what had happened.

"Looking back at this situation, I hope those reviewing it can understand that I understand the limitations on federal detainees but felt it was important to help the governor since he was in such severe pain," she said.

Aldan said she made the decision to allow the visit to occur and regret that she was unable to reach federal officials or the AG prior to it happening.

In her declaration, Capt. Georgia said she was at home sleeping in the early morning hours of Jan. 8 when she received a phone call from Aldan, who asked her to immediately go to DOC in uniform.

Georgia said the time clock read 3:05am when she arrived at DOC and retrieved her firearm.

"At no time did I hear any person talk to the detainee [Cheng] about her case or any other matter," she said.

Corrections Officer Borja stated in her declaration that her actual contact with Cheng was in transporting her back to DOC.

"At no time did I hear any person speak to the detainee about her case or any other matter," Borja said.

In Aldan's reply, Buckingham said the affidavits and declarations of Fitial, Aldan, Georgia, and Borja conclusively show that no actionable misconduct occurred.

Buckingham said the federal court should vacate the order for evidentiary hearing and quash the subpoenas as the U.S. government has not offered a shred of evidence otherwise.

"Aldan, and the rest of the persons subpoenaed have been placed under suspicion of wrongdoing when the U.S. government cannot even tell us what the wrongdoing is. These innocent parties have been vilified in the media and subjected to public ridicule," the AG said.

Buckingham said the U.S. government admits it needs a hearing to determine 'if it has a case, some case, any case."

"This puts the court in the untenable and illegal position of being an investigating arm of the government, a task the court may not constitutionally undertake," he asserted.

Cheng was among 24 Chinese nationals recently arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to sneak into Guam.

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson set the evidentiary hearing for Feb. 17, 2010, in connection with the alleged unauthorized release of Cheng from the DOC.

ABUSE

From Page 1

The request for audit came weeks after the CNMI closed its election season.

The CNMI held its general elections on Nov. 7, followed by its first gubernatorial runoff election on Nov. 23. Elected officials were sworn in on Jan. 11.

In an interview yesterday, Palacios said all these are "allegations" until proper audits would show whether they are true or not.

"On numerous occasions, clients of the *Man'Amko* Center would tell me about these things and I believe I am in a position to do something about it, to ensure proper authorities audit or investigate these things. I will always fight for what's right," he said.

Palacios was director of the Office on Aging during the Babauta administration from 2002 to 2006.

He said he would also like to talk to the public auditor to ask for an audit of monetary and in-kind donations made to the Office on Aging.

"I've been told that after donations are made, these donations disappear without even reaching the *man'amko*. I want to have someone like the public auditor look into it," he added.

Public Auditor Michael Pai and other Office of the Public Auditor managers were off-island last week for a conference in Hawaii.

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) also asked the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations to look into the allegations for proper action.

Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the JGO Committee, said his committee will take up the matter.

Palacios, who is also a member of the JGO Committee, said the panel may meet this week and discuss what course to take on the issue.

Palacios, in his Feb. 4 letter to the public auditor, said he received information about alleged misuse of government vehicles and federal funds from current and former clients of the *Man'Amko* Center in Garapan. "Man'amko" is the Chamorro word for "elderly."

He said Office on Aging Center clients alleged that purchased items included cooking ingredients, propane gas, fruits, vegetables, meat products, and beverages. They were then used, cooked and served at political campaign rallies.

"Mr. Pai, our *man'amko* are our link to the past. The federal funds we receive for *man'amko* programs should be used solely for their benefit, not for any particular political party or agenda. Any abuse by government officials of federal funds for our man'amko must not be tolerated," Palacios told the public auditor.

Palacios asked the public auditor to conduct a full audit of the Office on Aging program from September to Dec. 15, 2009, including an audit of all receipts, especially meat products, during this particular period.

The *Man'Amko* Center has some 138 homebound clients and some 75 "congregates" senior citizens who regularly hang out at the center for recreation and activities.

Palacios said during his term as director of the center, there were over 200 homebound clients and over 100 "congregates" at the center.

NMC had 18 resignations, 26 new hires in 2009

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College had a total of 18 resignations, three retirements, and three non-renewals in 2009, which the college described as normal.

The resignations, according to the college, consisted of employees who have retired, those who wanted to pursue other employment opportunities, due to personal circumstances, and medical reasons.

The number of resignations was also affected by the decision of the NMI Retirement Fund to suspend refund payments to members, according to the college statement.

"It should be noted that in 2009, the NMIRF board voted to suspend all refund payments to members beginning on Sept. 1, 2009. As a result, certain NMC employees resigned to withdrew their contributions before the given deadline," the NMC statement said.

With a workforce of about 180, the college said this employee turnover rate is a normal part of human resource management operations

Acting interim president Dr. Patrick Moran said, though, that the college is working to decrease its turnover rate.

"We are working to reduce employee turnover so that we keep and retain our best employees," he said.

To do this, he said, the college has put in place an extensive hiring process to ensure that those who are hired are the best qualified and the best fit for the organization.

Second, he said that NMC places a strong emphasis on continuing the professional development of its employees.

The college statement indicated that NMC is in the process of revising and updating its human resource policies to ensure they are relevant, fair, and beneficial for employees.

26 hired in 2009

NMC said a total of 26 individuals were hired in the same year.

As of last month, the college had a total workforce of 182 for the Spring semester, with 76 faculty members and 106 staffers.

Figures obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that as of January, the college had 33 instructional faculty or instructors teaching various courses and programs, all with 10-month employment contracts.

A total of 43 are counted as non-instructional because they work as counselors, librarians, and other positions in direct relation to student services. Employees under this category are provided 12-month contracts.

As of yesterday, NMC's Web site posted a total of 17 vacant positions.

NMC posted a 17-percent increase in its Spring enrollment—from 847 students to 989 students.

Man allegedly threatens wife with machete

The Office of the Attorney General has filed charges against a Rota man who allegedly beat his wife and threatened to kill her with a machete.

The OAG charged Andres Pingad Balisi with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace charges.

Assistant attorney general William Downer stated in the charging information that on Nov. 6, 2009, the 30-year-old Balisi assaulted and threatened to harm his wife with a machete.

Police said the victim sustained a black eye, bruises on the shoulder, and laceration on the lip.

Police said Balisi had just arrived home from a political gathering in Sinapalo when he attacked his wife.

The defendant allegedly punched the wife in the thigh and eye. He took a machete, threatened her with it, and broke her cell phone. He also allegedly pulled the victim's hair. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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TO SAN JOSE

COURTESY VISIT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officials from the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services share a moment with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos during a courtesy visit to the Office of the Governor on Friday, Feb. 5, 2010. Seated, from left, Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish Wildlife and Parks, Department of Interior; and Lt. Gov. Inos. Second row, from left, DLNR Secretary Ignacio dela Cruz; Marianne Teregeyo, SA to Secretary DLNR; Robyn Thorson, Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Gina Shultz, Deputy Field Supervisor, USFWS; Carolyn Bohan, Assistant Regional Director, Refuges, USFWS; Terry Rabot, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, USFWS; and Barbara Alberti, Superintendent, National Park Service. Back row, from left, Earl Campbell, Assistant Field Supervisor, USFWS; Sylvan Igisomar, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife; Donald Palawski, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuges; and Jeff Schorr, CNMI Field Representative for DOI.

NMIRF sets money managers' meeting

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A conference that will bring all Retirement Fund money managers, consultants, and advisers together has been scheduled this month to provide stakeholders a venue to know the true condition of the Fund's investments.

Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon said the conference will take place on Feb. 22-24 and could possibly extend another day to accommodate all presentations and demonstrations.

The venue is still being finalized, Aguon said, but it will be open to the public free of charge.

This year's conference will focus on the calendar year performance of each investment and money managers and would include projections for the coming investment years.

The Fund has 11 money managers at present.

Fund consultant Merrill Lynch and custodian Bank of Hawaii are also expected to participate in the three-day event.

"Managing money for other people is what they basically do. It would make sense if they would come and present to the people how they performed over the last year and maybe make projections for the coming investment years," Aguon said.

Based on the initial result of the assets liability modeling, the board may get rid of the money managers that are continuing to underperform but Aguon said it is the goal of the board to first see all the presentations and the final completion of the asset liability study before making any decisions.

He said reallocation of the Fund's investments also needs extensive review by the board.

"Decision will be made…and it will depend on what the presentations are," he said, adding that consultation with Merrill Lynch is also a factor.

As of this month, the Fund's total investment fund is estimated at $330 million that is spread out among common stocks, comprising 65 percent; fixed income, 27 percent, hedge funds, 6 percent; and money market, 2 percent.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman High sets half-day session

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010, Kagman High School will have a half-day session due to report card distribution. Report card time is from 4pm to 6pm. Report cards will be distributed by the first period classroom teacher. ***(PR)***

Seminar for MHS seniors today

Today, Feb. 8, 2010, all seniors of Marianas High School will be attending the Start Smart Seminar at the Saipan World Resort from 8am to 2:45pm. During this seminar, all seniors will be given information about college, financial aid, and succeeding after high school. If you *do not* want your child to attend, sign the permission form that your child was given, stating you *do not* want them to participate. If you have any questions, call the MHS Main Office at 664-3806. ***(PR)***

Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

To a great and awesome mother, friend and wife, Rose Santos Hoson, who is celebrating her special day today, Feb. 8! We love you very much and we hope that your birthday will be filled with happiness, joy and blessings. You are the best and we love you so much! God bless and many more to come. From your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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A healthy mouth for your baby

By LORI I. SERNA RDH, MED
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

February is Children's Dental Health Month. In an effort to reach out to the community the Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic in conjunction with the *Saipan Tribune* will print four articles related to children's oral health.

Many parents wonder how soon they should start to care for their baby's teeth. The answer is before the baby is even born. What you eat when you are pregnant is important. Eating right will help you and your growing baby stay healthy. Follow your doctor's advice and eat the right food and take vitamins. This is also a good talk to your doctor about breastfeeding.

A good time to start taking care of your children's oral health is when you give your baby the first bath. Even though your child has no teeth at this time, there is a white film already on the gums and tongue. This white film contains bacteria. By cleaning the baby's gums with a washcloth, you are getting rid of the white film that contains plaque as well as getting the child use to having her/his mouth cleaned on a regular basis. As soon as teeth do come in, clean the teeth with a clean, soft cloth or a baby's toothbrush. Clean the teeth at least twice a day. It is best to clean them after every feeding.

At about age 2, most of your child's teeth will be in. Now you can start brushing them with a tiny drop of non-fluoride toothpaste. As your child gets older let him/her use a toothbrush to brush their teeth. Most children do not like having their teeth brushed but the earlier you start the easier it will be for them to get used to it. There are many ways you can help your child enjoy having you brush their teeth. You can play a game; have the child take turns brushing his teeth while you brush yours and then switch. Remember that fun should be part of the activity. If you read a book every night to your children you can have them brush their teeth while they hear the story and if they stop brushing then you stop reading; this is what we do at home and it seems to work really well with older children.

Most of all remember that children learn from experience. If children grow up watching their parents take care of their teeth by brushing and flossing often the children will do the same. It is also helpful to talk to your children about the bacteria that live in our mouth, letting them know that, just as we shower our bodies, we need to "shower" our teeth.

If you have any questions regarding your child's oral health, feel free to call the SDA dental clinic at 234-6323. For the month of February as a celebration of Children's Dental Health month the SDA dental clinic will be offering free dental exams to all the children of the CNMI. Call today! ***(PR)***

On Sunday, February 14, 2010, bring the whole family and enjoy our Chinese Dinner Buffet specially prepared for the celebration.
Dinner buffet is inclusive of wine, beer and sodas.

Minami Restaurant
$38.00 adult & $19.00 child
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CUC-IFB-10-016

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Power Generation facilities in Saipan.

A mandatory pre-bid and site visit meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010 at 1O:OO AM (CHST) local time at the Power Generation Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work may be pick-ed up at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

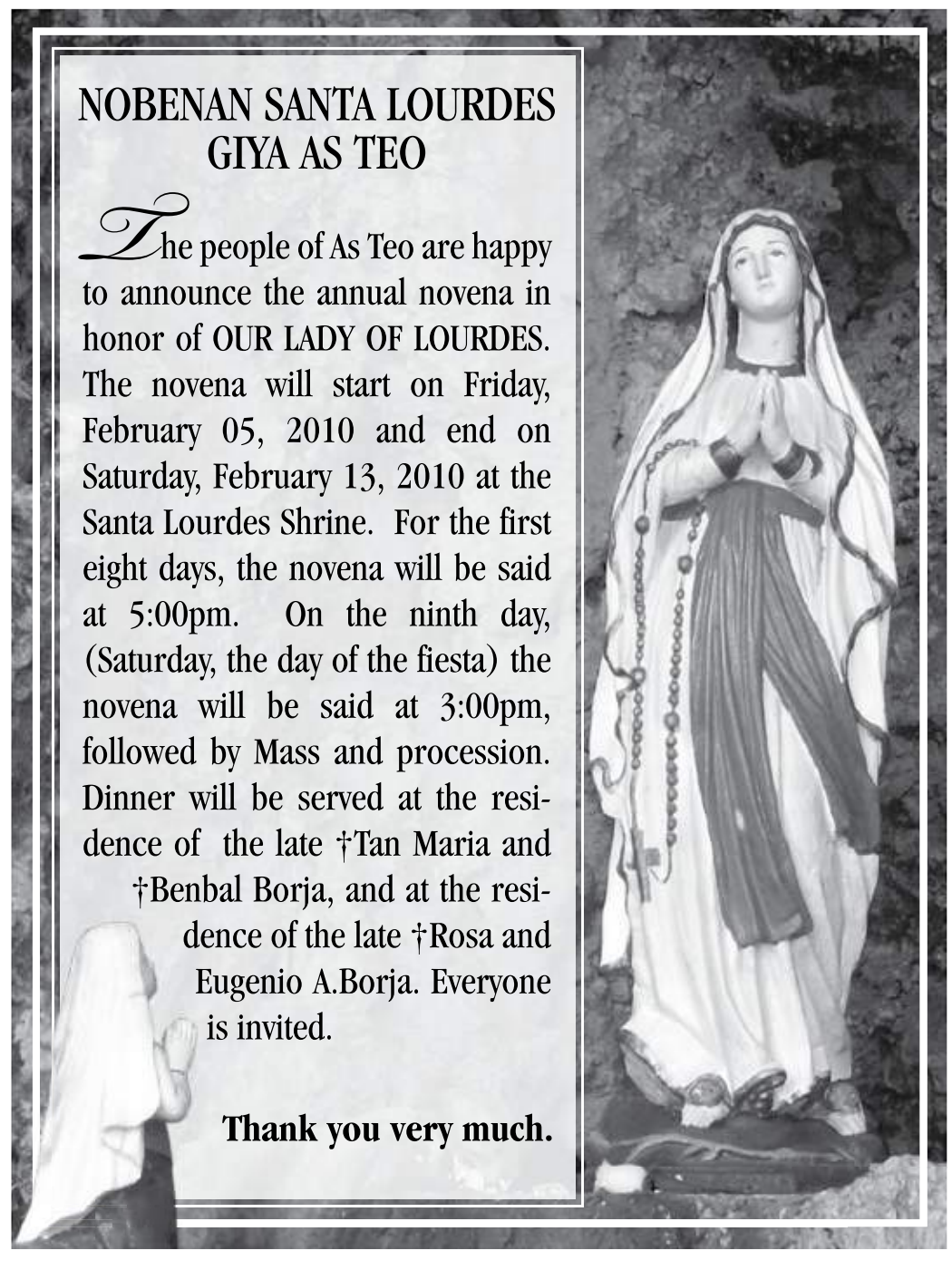
One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB-10-016 GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 10:OO AM (CHST) local time**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

- Contract will be awarded for a (1) One Year Term, upon issuance of Notice to Proceed.
- Selected firm must provide its company's latest BGRT/Withholding Tax information.
- Selected firm must provide copies of valid work permits for each employee to be assigned at CUC.
- Selected firm and all subcontractors must provide documents as proof that the firm is covering its employees under the Workman's Compensation program and is paying its employees pay wage rates not less than the current Federal minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The selected firm will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.
- Quotation for said services shall be valid for 60 days from date of submittal.
- This Scope of Work shall become "Exhibit A" of the Ground Maintenance Contract.

All inquiries must be submitted no later than Monday, March 1, 2010, 10:OO AM. in writing to Manuel B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email to msablan@cucgov.net and Almondo Santos, Power Generation Manager at pwrgen@cucgov.net.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All Bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/TIMOTHY M. CONNOR	/s/ABE UTU MALAE	/s/ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director


NOBENAN SANTA LOURDES
GIYA AS TEO
The people of As Teo are happy to announce the annual novena in honor of OUR LADY OF LOURDES. The novena will start on Friday, February 05, 2010 and end on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at the Santa Lourdes Shrine. For the first eight days, the novena will be said at 5:00pm. On the ninth day, (Saturday, the day of the fiesta) the novena will be said at 3:00pm, followed by Mass and procession. Dinner will be served at the residence of the late †Tan Maria and †Benbal Borja, and at the residence of the late †Rosa and Eugenio A.Borja. Everyone is invited.
Thank you very much.

3 charged with stealing spent shell casings

The Office of the Attorney General has filed charges against three men who broke into a hazardous explosive removal project in Marpi and stole expended shell casings.

The OAG charged James Sanchez, 38; Ray Anthony Ayuyu, 37; and Matthew A. Igisair, 35 with theft, conspiracy to commit theft, and criminal trespass. The government summoned them to appear in court on Feb. 22 at 9am.

Chief prosecutor Rosemond Santos stated in the charging document that Sanchez, Ayuyu, and Igisair unlawfully entered the All-Hazard Management Professionals Inc. project site and stole expended shell casings on July 12, 2009.

Police said the defendants, when arrested that day, confessed that they sold the stolen scrap metals to a recycling plant in Lower Base.

Police investigation showed that at 10:47am on July 12, an informant alerted the Department of Public Safety about a theft incident at the AMPRO project.

The informant told police that scraps of metal have been stolen from the ordnance disposal pit. The informant provided the police with the descriptions of a pickup truck that was seen parked outside the fence of the project site.

Police officers later spotted the vehicle in San Roque and found out that the defendants on board had just come from a recycling center. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

US, Japan air forces sets live-fire training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and Japan Air Self Defense Force will conduct live-fire training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 8 from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

■ Feb. 9 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

■ Feb. 10-13 from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

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[1] Minimum balance and opening deposit of $2,500. Annual percentage yield (APY) shown is effective as of January 4, 2010, and is subject to change at any time without notice. An early withdrawal penalty may be imposed if withdrawal occurs before maturity. Bankohana Checking account required. Certain restrictions apply. Not combinable with other offers. Limited time only. Fees may reduce earnings.
[2] $500 minimum opening deposit required. Monthly service fee waived with qualifying balances.
[3] When you sign up for a Bank of Hawaii Visa Check Card with your new Bankohana Checking account, you will receive a $20 Shell gift certificate. Limit one offer per account; one per customer. Some restrictions apply. Not applicable to existing Bankohana customers. Offer good through February 14, 2010.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 8, 1999

Residency limit alarms contractors

Contractors in the Northern Marianas will close shop if Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signs the three-year limit on the stay of foreign workers because local residents are not interested to work in the construction industry. In a letter sent to Sen. Morgen P. Tenorio, author of SB 11-71 which imposes the three-year residency limit, the CNMI Contractors Association said replacing the workers every three years would be very costly for the industry. According to Peter Erret Jr., president of the association, the guest workers who have stayed in the CNMI for more than a year "are the more reliable, hardworking and honest citizens."

Leaders brace for Young visit

Leaders of the CNMI Legislature are hopeful of the Northern Marianas visit of U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) and other key members of Congress which begins next week amid fresh attempts by White House to strip local control over its labor and immigration. House Speaker Diego T. Benavente said it will provide an opportunity for island officials to present a progress report on the reforms undertaken by the commonwealth government since a U.S. Senate oversight on the CNMI was conducted in March last year. "We had asked for time to show that we can resolve our problems with local solution," he said in an interview. "We have, in fact, resolved these problems." But Benavente maintained the legislature will give way to the Tenorio administration and the private sector to present an overview of the present situation on the island, including its deeply battered economy and tight financial shape of the government.

Feb. 8, 2000

Teno upbeat on CNMI's strong banking sector

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio is confident the strong banking infrastructure in the Northern Marianas will help struggling businesses make it through the difficult economic times, citing heightened activities in the financial sector. The governor keynoted yesterday's grand opening of the new Bank of Guam in-store branch in Price Costco, which was attended by legislators and some of the island's business executives. The strong partnership between the government and private banks operating in the CNMI spelled the difference in the continued survival of businesses in the islands despite economic downturn, according to Mr. Tenorio.

'Don't pass takeover bill'

The vice chair of the Senate Federal and Foreign Relations Committee yesterday made a last-minute appeal to U.S. senators not to approve the immigration takeover bill, saying this should not be implemented on a tiny island with little economic opportunities. Taking away local control on the island's immigration, minimum wage and special trade advantages is tantamount to an economic disaster that will deprive islanders benefits enjoyed by Americans in the mainland, according to Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero. In a letter to Sen. Frank H. Murkowski (R-Alaska), chair of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee who sponsored S. 1052, the Saipan senator said that while achieving the quality of life similar to the mainland is still far behind, a federal takeover is not the right course to do so.

Feb. 8, 2001

BOE initiates major election reforms

The Board of Election has instituted major election reforms as officials yesterday declared that the forthcoming general election will be closely watched and transparent. Measures to prevent possible problems that may range from absentee voting to irregularities are being addressed as early as now, Election Executive Director Greg Sablan said. The BOE is currently accepting applicants for the position of election officials where at least 1,000 individuals are expected to be signed up. Of the said number, only about 200 will be deputized as election officials for the November polls.

Hotels snub tax breaks for renovation?

Unless hotel owners and proprietors take advantage of the tax incentives offered by the government in exchange of renovation and improvement of their facilities, the CNMI construction industry will remain inactive in the next few years. Contractors on the island remain hopeful that members of Hotel Association will take a giant step to renovate and improve their hotel premises to take advantage of the tax incentives and help in the recovery of the construction sector.

Grounded vessel pulled free in Oahu; no pollution reported

HONOLULU—Marine casualty investigators from the U.S. Coast Guard continue to monitor the situation of a 734-foot bulk carrier that ran aground in the entrance channel of Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor on Oahu, Friday, Feb. 5.

The vessel was pulled free by tugs at approximately 2:50pm yesterday afternoon. Coast Guard pollution investigators report no discharge of oil or fuel.

The Liberian-flagged *VogeTrader* ran aground at 7:25am near Buoy No. 2 in the harbor's entrance. The cause of the grounding is under investigation and state of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources personnel will determine whether reef in the area was damaged.

The vessel's owners closely coordinated with the Coast Guard on an operational plan that involved lightering or lightening the vessel. The responders loaded ballast on the port side of the *VogeTrader* in order to raise the starboard side enough to allow the vessel to be pulled free. Oil spill resources were ready to be deployed during the evolution.

Coast Guard responders reported a crack at the bottom of the hull amidships where there is a double bottom fuel tank and reported water intrusion to the fuel tank. There was no leaking of fuel, however, as seawater intrusion prevented oil from leaving the tank.

The vessel will be towed to an anchorage where temporary repairs will be made through a patch placed over the crack. An air crew aboard an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Barbers Point will monitor the repair evolution this afternoon to determine no fuel is discharged.

U.S. Coast Guard pollution investigators are on scene at Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor, Oahu, this morning after a 734-foot bulk carrier ran aground at 7:25am. Coast Guard, State Department of Land and Natural Resources and other state and county responders are on scene to evaluate the situation.
PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS ANTHONY SOTO

The grounding did not seriously disrupt maritime commerce, according to Cmdr. Bob McFarland, the senior Coast Guard officer responsible for response support.

"We are extremely fortunate to have mitigated the pollution threat to this point," said McFarland, the acting U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Honolulu. "Through the excellent coordinated efforts of the State of Hawaii, contracted salvage experts and the *VogeTrader*'s owners, we were able to avoid a potentially serious situation. The Coast Guard is extremely pleased with the professional response to this situation and will conduct a thorough investigation to determine what went wrong."

A harbor pilot was on board the *VogeTrader*, which was inbound when it went aground. The harbor pilot was taken to Queen's Hospital in Honolulu for drug and alcohol testing, which is standard in a Coast Guard investigation. ***(USCG)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-038

A&E of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 11,2010**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **January 25, 2010**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution, RFP10-GOV-038".** One (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-039

A&E of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 11, 2010**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **January 25, 2010**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

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Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements, RFP10-GOV-039"**. One (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

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/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 32

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Protect Haitian orphans

The attempt by Baptist missionaries from Idaho to spirit 33 Haitian kids across the border into the Dominican Republic on Friday may have been well-intentioned, even admirable, but it certainly wasn't very smart.

With Haiti in ruins, the streets and makeshift shelters are teeming with uncounted numbers of traumatized, homeless children. Haitian authorities have expressed well-founded fears that slave traffickers or organ-harvesters will take advantage of the chaos to seize this helpless prey.

They have rightly decided to stop new "adoptions," phony or otherwise, by foreigners to protect Haiti's children until things settle down. And that day may be a long way off.

Friends and relatives of the 10 Americans affiliated with the Central Valley Baptist Church in Meridian, Idaho, said they were on a rescue mission. The plan was to take the children, ranging in age from 2 months to 12 years, to a Dominican resort to care for them and later build a more permanent orphanage.

Given the needs in Haiti, efforts to help are commendable, but that's no excuse for ignoring the law or putting aside common sense.

The group was stopped at the border and taken into custody by Haitian authorities. The children are being cared for at an orphanage called SOS Children's Village, whose director told The AP on Wednesday that none of the children who are old enough and willing to talk say they are parentless. Apparently, they were all given up by parents who could no longer care for their children.

In the current atmosphere of desperation, that's not surprising, but unilaterally going into Haiti and taking children without the permission and knowledge of the government is a grave mistake. The current disorder does not nullify laws against child trafficking. Indeed, they are more relevant than ever and should be strictly enforced.

Unless the authorities in Haiti discover an improbable criminal or evil intent, however, the Americans should be set free and sent home. In this instance, the mitigating circumstances warrant release without charges.

The incident should serve as a reminder to all who want to help Haiti that just because the nation is reeling does not mean that its laws have been suspended.

Haiti needs help, but there are right and wrong ways to go about it. This one was unquestionably wrong.

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GOOD NEWS!! YOU'LL SOON BE ABLE TO FIGHT AND DIE FOR A COUNTRY THAT WON'T LET YOU GET MARRIED.
"DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY REVIEWED
KIRK

Beware Dec. 31, 2014!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

We in the CNMI must become aware and also have a concern for Dec. 31, 2014. On this date our nonresident labor pool will vanish. Yes, the handwriting is on the wall. Unfortunately too many of us still feel that it will not come true. How sad and how foolish! Will we ever learn from previous mistakes?

In the year 2000, our then garment industry was told that in five years (2005) the World Trade Organization was going to erase the import quotas imposed on garments made in foreign countries into the United States. Simply put, in 2005, (five years later) the United States was going to open its doors to garments made in China, Vietnam, and all the other countries that wish to ship to the United States.

Of course these countries all had and still have a much cheaper labor cost which allows them to fiercely compete against "Made in the U.S.A." garments. In reaction to this announcement, the garment industry and our government considered it a hoax. If you recall, the garment industry had reached over a billion dollars a year export. How could it be so easily destroyed?

Instead of planning a strategy to overcome this ominous announcement, the government and the industry joined forces to hire lobbyists at a huge sum of money running into millions of dollars. The end result was that the chief lobbyist is now in jail and the CNMI has lost its garment industry and $11 million. No one considered an alternate plan on how to save a very profitable industry. Our only reaction was to cry "foul" and pretend that it wouldn't happen!

Consider: Puerto Rico is a commonwealth as we are. However they are committed to paying U.S. minimum wages. Currently they are enjoying over $200 million sales annually producing garments for the U.S. military. Did anyone ever consider that perhaps the CNMI could have joined this club of making garments for the military also? Our lower minimum wage would more than have covered any shipping costs. So where is that industry or one to replace it? Now back to our problem, which will hit us on Dec. 31, 2014.

Whenever I discuss this problem of our diminishing nonresident labor pool with anyone, the first question that is asked: "Do we have enough local workers to fill the void created by the loss of the current nonresident workforce?" My reply is a strong affirmative "Yes!" Where is this mythical labor force?

Has anyone counted how many able-bodied men and women are out of work presently? Has any serious studies been made? I know that we have about 7,000 households on food stamps. That translates to about 15,000 to 18,000 people. Assuming that about 7,000 are capable of working.

Add young men and women who graduated from high school who have not gone to college or found work at an average of 400 per year over the last five years. This would amount to about 2,000 plus potentials that can enter the labor force. Another idea is to lay off at least 2,000 excess people from government jobs and put them in the private labor pool. We are definitely bloated in the public sector. Everyone dreams of working for the local government. I wonder why? Ask many high school students about their dream workplace. These total to about 11,000 potentials.

Now add 400 graduates more from high school from this year 2010 to 2014. Thus 400 times five years equals another 2,000. Add about 500-plus government retirees. The grand total now becomes about 13,000 or more of local labor pool.

A big factor no one is taking into consideration is productivity of each worker. If you notice on various job sites where many nonresident workers are employed, you will observe that in many cases productivity is low. Unless the manager is sharp, instead of training his employees to work more skillfully, he simply adds more workforce. Notice how few modern tools are used on the job sites. Notice the large amount of waiters and waitresses in many restaurants.

With the increase in wages, the workers' productivity must be raised accordingly. As an example from my own company, last year I reduced my workforce by 20 percent and kept the same production level. This was done by modifying how and what we do. We also bought several time saving equipments. And we also gave incentives to the remaining employees. Thus we reduced our costs and held to the same production level with fewer employees. I have seen this happen in Japan and in the United States. Higher wages should mean better production with fewer but better trained employees.

As you question my numbers, you are probably asking where I got them or how did I come to the conclusion of such large numbers. You are correct; I estimated them. But let me ask you a question: When has anyone in the government made a survey of available local potential manpower? Let's do it and settle the question of how many people are available for work!

The Northern Marianas Trade Institute has about 200 men and women learning trades and professions. The Northern Marianas College is training thousands yearly. Entice them not to leave the CNMI and join in the workforce. It is time that we become a work-oriented with work ethics community.

Now that the Department of Labor has less nonresident workers to monitor, perhaps they should take the lead and do an in-depth study of our real labor needs. I am not an expert in this but fully understand the need to move quickly on this issue.

I repeat myself that unless we develop our own labor force, we will always be a dependent, hands-out sustenance society. All the investments and all the increases in tourism will not develop a solid economy. We must be in complete control. It is vital we develop a trained and skilled workforce.

As mentioned before, every dollar earned and that circulates in our community multiples nine times. Thus if we stop the overseas remittance of over $80 million yearly, we would see the floating of about $720 million available for loans, purchases, etc. right here on our islands. What a loss and waste to do otherwise!

Let's do it! Let's get off our buts (excuses) and take control of our lives and destiny! Remember the lost garment industry. Everyone said it would survive. Think of the dreadful consequences if we don't start becoming skilled workers in our community. Nonresident workers are fast becoming a thing of the past. We still have time to produce a skilled and productive workforce, thereby bringing prosperity back to our islands. This is the only real way. Remember Dec. 31, 2014, is the deadline. Good luck on Jan. 1, 2015!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Thoughts on development potential and related economic issues

■ Starting the long road back to economic recovery

First in a five-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

As a retiree it is obvious to me that the long term impact on the Fund's defined benefit plan will be a result of two factors: the reduction of pension beneficiaries through attrition which will eventually result in the natural demise of the Fund. As I don't have the ages of the members to estimate how many more years the payment of pensions will be required, nevertheless the roster of DBP members is one of an ever diminishing number of pensioners as no new members are being added as a result of the recently adopted defined contribution plan, which is largely a personal savings plan through a 401(k) program.

Turning to the second factor of influence on the future of the Fund is the need to sustain a viable, growing economy without which the Fund is doomed. That process is the subject of this series.

Simply stated, a healthy and prosperous private sector is essential to generate a tax base of sufficient size to obtain the revenue necessary to operate the NMI government at a level compatible with meeting the needs of the community. Thus, permitting those government employees who have remained members of DBP to continue contributing a portion of their income to the Fund together with the government's own employer's contribution (hopefully).

Current law suits aside, the future of the Fund is irreversibly tied to the economy. It always has been and it will remain so as long as the last DBP recipient is alive—and this in spite of Fund investments in the market.

As one who was once actively involved in the economic development of the islands from the Trust Territory period when the economy was as listless as the doldrums—and there was no private sector worthy of the term (nor a NMI retirement program either)—through the initial economic takeoff headed by the dynamic leadership of one of the islands' most astute businessmen, David M. Sablan, I have either participated in, or observed from a distance, the NMI's economic roller coaster ride thru gloom—to boom—to bust—and now a gradual contraction and decline of much of the economic activity that remains.

In my judgment the economy does not have to remain in the dumps. There is a way to foster growth but only, in my humble opinion, if the people are willing to accept some "trade-offs" discussed later in this series.

The islands are beautiful and have much potential for increased economic growth but unfortunately, for a number of reasons, all of which are well known by many in the remaining business community, the islands have fallen far short of achieving their full potential.

I've been around long enough to know that there are different ways to achieve the goal of stimulating economic growth and I don't know them all. I also know that no one has all the answers, but as a long-time observer of the "ups and downs" of the NMI economy I have a few thoughts as an interested observer, for whatever they may be worth.

Recognize that whatever has been attempted in recent years to stimulate increased private investment hasn't worked to the extent hoped and find out why. Why have many original "old line" Japanese investors abandoned the NMI? They haven't left Hawaii and Guam to the same extent. And why hasn't the Free Trade Zone been more of a successful tool after more than a dozen years on the books?

Bring the best minds in the community's private sector together once again, perhaps under the auspices of the Chamber and ask this group for advice and guidance. A candid assessment of problems and constraints to increased investment is needed. From this insight a comprehensive "action plan" must be developed to guide both the administration, the Legislature and the private sector.

As I wrote sometime ago to a friend on Saipan, "the NMI must figure a way to 'reinvent' itself. Enough time has now passed in experimenting with 'self-government' to have learned from past mistakes. I'm not aware Guam has such problems as one observes in the CNMI. To many outside the islands, and potential investors in particular, when reading online articles appearing in the local media, it very often seems that some in the NMI want to be a part of—but separate from—the U.S., as strange as that observation may be! At least that the way it appears at times. It sends a very confusing message, particularly to potential foreign investors which, in my judgment, is the group the NMI should be courting. But that's my belief and I recognize that others may differ. If foreign investment is not desired, then so be it. Just let the entire community know.

I cite as an example, H.B. 15-291 as contributing to the confusion of many as regards the NMI/U.S. government relationship and in particular those foreign investors who may be monitoring conditions in the Commonwealth. The bill proposes the creation of a commission made up of indigenous residents who would "examine the provisions of the Covenant; the actions of the United States in interpreting and implementing the Covenant; and, among other things, the right to secession." The first thing one notices in the bill

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A matter of face

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

A guy married to a Chinese woman tells the story of how his wife went home on vacation and returned with fabulous photos of her in a traditional costume, a properly coiffed *xiao lao po* of a Mandarin household. Conversant with both film and digital photography, our guy critiqued the quality of the photos, both in form and content. He unknowingly, mistakenly, foolishly, and sadly—tragically as well—crossed the forbidden line. His wife felt a tremendous loss of face from which she, he, and they never recovered.

The guy's comments were all legitimate responses from the perspective of aesthetics, particularly authenticity and realism, but his wife was not interested in that. She was creating a face for public display, not to mention a buffer zone for her own self-image and sense of self-worth. Our budding Ansel Adams sacrificed the virtues of domestic tranquility at the altar of what he considered the demand of truth and beauty.

My host's daughter here in Zhong Guo Dong Bei (Northeast China) had recently done a photo shoot enhanced by the wonders of Photoshop that had the young lady looking like a twittering tweeter in her tweens. I kept my mouth shut. For this was not a case of simple vanity at 40; it is a case of anchoring a sense of reputation, the stuff that papers the corridors of good public relations. This was a matter of face, and of course, this is not a monopoly of Chinese culture, although they are more adept and consistent in its practice, and fiercely adamant in adhering to its prescribed parameters.

Let me step back here. One will remember that the primary civilizing symbol of China and those influenced by it (Korea, Japan, SEA) is the yin-yang, downplayed in contemporary Chinese symbology because of its history of religious superstition, an opiate to many people in spite of the façade of secular scientific socialism. The yin-yang is, nevertheless, fundamental in understanding the Chinese psyche. This understands contradictory and opposing forces within nature (hot and cold, dark and light, male and female), and the humanizing, thus, civilizing effort, is how to harmonize and balance, or locate the pivot point so that opposing forces do not annihilate each other but find the flow, the stream, the current and the rhythm that allows for tranquil coexistence.

Move to the halls of the U.S. Congress, or closer to home, to our Legislature, where the assumption is the necessity of opposing points of view, thesis and antithesis, to extol the refinements of differences and trusting that in the clash of opposites, a genuine synthesis is arrived at that honors the insight of the minority and promotes the foresight of the majority. Never mind that these Mariana and Micronesian islands, and its cousins from the Malay peninsula, have always operated from the aegis of consensus at the communal Utt encompassing all views, honoring differences rather than eliminating the minority opinion; we have since learned the dialectics of Europe where clash is the order of battle and faith abides in an invisible hand to lead the victor to the winner's circle! Winning is not the thing; it is the only thing!

Hold these two basic orientations in mind, and we might get a clearer picture of why certain pronouncements from the White House and Beijing's Politburo seem to send Western media to its loop-sided frenzy of needling sensationalism, its shallow tradition of intellectual skepticism, and its naïve self-righteous moral pontificating.

For instance, there's the question of the Dalai Lama and his masterful promotion of the image of gentleness and reconciliation, making him a darling of the West, without distancing himself from, or relinquishing, any claim of geographical sovereignty over the Potala palace in the Xizang Autonomous Region on the rooftop of the world. Conversely, there is a Beijing official knee-jerk response that considers any act of appearing to lend legitimacy to this claim as inimical to the interest of the Sino State! Obama's intent to meet the erstwhile Lhasa resident in his official capacity as U.S. President is thereby considered a slap in the face on Zhong Guo foreign policy. The same dynamic is true when Hillary Clinton spoke in her official capacity as the Secretary of State for Google's claim that it will no longer allow covert and overt censorship of its network in China, or tolerate illegitimate intrusion on its OS.

One wonders what difference the result might have been had Obama spoken in his personal capacity as, say, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and declared that he intends to meet with his fellow peace advocate from Shangri-la; or, Hillary teased the Sino authorities as an individual user of Google rather than as an official blue diplomat? Corporate media would have shredded such tact (as it did Obama's bow to the Japanese emperor!); they are, after all, threatened by the growing ascendancy of the ¥uan in the global market, as they have been humiliated for a long time by the fact that nine of the top

See A MATTER on Page 13

Chamorro gi chagu lugat

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Nos kuantos años malofan `nai man-asuda i familia yan un` primun mame ni sumaga giya Indonesia deste antes de geran dos. Dispues, man-mamueba para un` lugat giya Australia `nai manafañuha i ti man-natibu siha ginen Indonesia.

Mana fattu magi ni un` tiuhu ya managuaha dinaña familia pot guiya. Sige mona i pueñge `nai kumanta i primuhu un` kantan Chamorro ni finanaguen nanaña. Kabales na finu Chamorro yan kontodu sunidu.

Esta tutuhu lagoña `nai sige ha kanta mafanagueña pot ayu na isla (Saipan) `nai mafañagugue. Ginacha induktu i prohimu gi duranten yan dispues de geran dos. Mas guaha chinatsagaña `nai mana` fan hanau para Austrailia.

Hu tuñgu ha` na megai besis buente i prohimu ha konsidedera i lugat `nai mafañagugue yan kau siña un` dia u biragueu magi. `Sino buente maulegñague gi presente na estauña pot familiaña ni pumayune i lugat `nai mangaige siha pagu.

Maseha hafa na disposision u guaha, i primuhu siempre ha biragueu magi gi hechuran espiritu yangin u fattu i uttimu disposision. Hombre galagu `an matai, siempre gi finataiña i iluña hafafana` ayu na tanu `nai mafañagugue.

■■■

Ha katau`uma i lahiña i amku gi lemlim tautau gi kantun tasi. Kada yayas hana tunog i lahiña ya dumeskansa. Sige pagu i patgon humugandu gi oriyan bihuña pat ha atrebigue mamokat lachagu dispues duru malagu tatte.

Guaha lokue i amku ni tumalaya para totchin familia. Gaige ha` talu i lahiña ni sumasahguan i tiau siha gi lagua`. Gi todu finaposña i amku sessu ha kilili lahiña kontodu `an kumasadules gi taduñg na halom tanu. Ha kreansa i patgon man-rikohe fina neñgkanu. Esta ti u ñalañg sa` mafanague lumala`.

Dies años desteke matai si bihuña, mamahan talayaña i patgon para u chagi finanaguen tata gi hagas kantun tasi ni sessu i dos mafatoigue. Mehna tiau yan kichu lau antes ha` de u umpañg talayaña, ha lie` gi chagu un` buttu kontra minachum atdau. Tumekun ya ilegña: Huñgan, hu tatiye lastronmu tata ya gaige pagu i lahihu na guiya tahgueghu".

Malagu lokue i prohimu na ya un` dia `an taiguegue`, esta monhayan ha kreansa patgoña umaligau maisague.

■■■

Kada ha fagchae`yu seriosu na chinatsaga, hu batbaruye gi hechuran chaleg para bai` fuñot pinitihu. Dispues ileghu: Saina yangin disposisionmu este pues listuyu umaksepta sin ditension. Sige pagu hu hassu dibuenamente satbasionhu. Lau gi santatte gi hinasoghu hu huhuñgog silensiu yan suabe na bos anghet: Petsige kareramu ya chamu fan a`atan tatte.

Hu komprende na buente ha chachagiyu i Saina kau fitme timoghu gi sattun na inadahen petsonat na dignu. Hu atan lokue kau ti ume`entalu impitu gi makat na asuntu ni hu fafana`. Gi minachum atdau mafattu tatte un` tinaitaihu pot dignun tautau ni ilelegña: I hegsu tatnai tumunog papa` para u saluda i tasi. Kontentuyu gi disisionhu ni mau`udai gi hilu pisun prinsipiu.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy and windy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.	Partly cloudy and windy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲84° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°

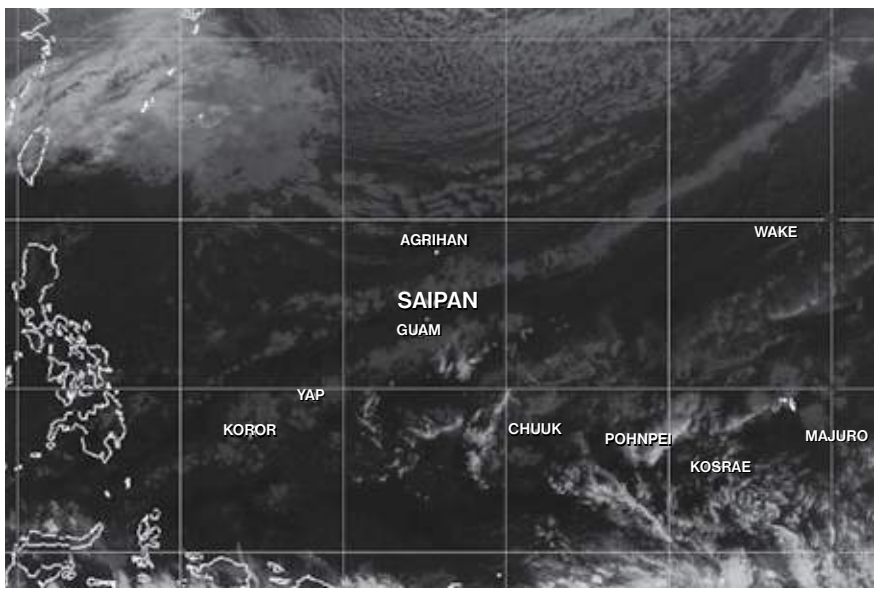
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲81	▼72
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼76
Yap	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼81
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲84	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲68	▼55
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲36	▼23
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼70
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼69
London	Cloudy	▲41	▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼48
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼68
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼63
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲33	▼18
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Paris	Rain	▲41	▼40
Pusan	Rain	▲61	▼43
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼43
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼33
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲55	▼46
Seoul	Dreary	▲49	▼32
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲51	▼48
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲35	▼21

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds south of a stationary front are producing extensive cloudiness and widespread rain over the northwestern corner of the discussion area from Iwo To island and westward or north of a line from 24N142E to 22N130E. A cold front enters the discussion area northwest of Wake Island at 25N164E and extends southwestward to near Pagan at 18N146E then continues as a shear line to end at 10N130E. Clouds with patchy rain are found along and up to 140 miles northwest of the cold front. Patchy clouds and light rain are seen along and up to 100 miles northwest of the shear line. A shear line fragment reaches southwestward from east of Tinian at 15N149E through south of Yap at 9N138E to end southeast of Koror at 7N135E. Some clouds and widely scattered showers are present along and up to 130 miles northwest of this feature including Guam and Yap.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
2:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:28 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:00 AM	1:24 PM
Tuesday	2:53 AM	2:16 PM
Wednesday	3:43 AM	3:08 PM
Thursday	4:30 AM	4:00 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	4:50 PM

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Response to former garment workers

By TIMOTHY BELLAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Timothy Bellas is chairman of the Garment Workers Trust Fund and former chairman of the Garment Oversight Board.

Editor's Note: Due to its length, this letter is being published in two parts.

While the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands has already ruled on the motion for a temporary restraining order and the funds have all been disbursed, I still felt compelled to see if I can dispel some of the misinformation that is being put out by many who have given their "expert" opinion on this matter. One of the other trustees has opined that there is no response that will satisfy the workers. However, I am simply hoping that this letter will at least provide some answers to several of the questions or erroneous contentions that have appeared in the press and on line.

Some information about class action lawsuits and this settlement in particular, may correct some of the misinformation.

Not all garment workers were entitled to receive money from the class action lawsuit.

A class action lawsuit is brought on behalf of a specific group of people by a lawyer or a firm. In this case, the attorneys who brought this class action brought it on behalf of workers who worked for only certain of the garment factories on Saipan during a specific period of time. Therefore, in order to qualify to be a member of the "class" a garment worker had to meet two factual requirements: One, he/she had to have worked for one of the factories that was sued, and two, that person had to have worked for the factory during the period covered by the lawsuit. To put it another way, even if you were a garment worker in the past, you may not have been qualified to be a member of the class of persons who were represented in this case—if you did not work for a factory that was sued in the case or you did not work for one of those factories during the period covered by the lawsuit.

In addition, there was a third practical requirement. Even if you met the above two requirements, you had to be registered with the law firm that brought the lawsuit, otherwise there is no way to know that you were a member of the class that they were representing. Therefore, even if you were qualified, you would not have received any money if the attorneys did not have you listed as one of their clients.

The first distribution of money

After the case settled in 2003, the money pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, SA, was paid to the attorneys who represented the class members. After receiving the money, however, it took quite some time for the distribution to be made. The Garment Oversight Board, GOB, started receiving phone calls from class members complaining that they were still on island but had not received any of the money from the settlement of the case. After discussing the matter with attorneys for the class members, I was advised that there was a legal issue that was preventing them from distributing the money. Even though this was not technically the responsibility of GOB, the legal issue was brought to the attention of Judge Munson. Judge Munson quickly resolved that legal issue and the GOB continued to monitor the situation until the first distribution checks were actually mailed out in September 2006. The GOB had nothing to do with calculating the amount or the mailing of this first payment to the workers. The attorneys for the workers hired a firm in Northern California called Gilardi & Co. (Gilardi) and they created a computer software program, which determined how much each worker should be paid based on several factors. Gilardi sent out roughly 29,000 checks to the class members. Of those 29,000 checks, Gilardi reported that slightly in excess of 13,000 were actually received and cashed by the class members and 16,000 were returned because they were never cashed.

The second distribution of money

Under the terms of the SA, all of the money represented by the checks that were not cashed from the distribution was then turned over to the GOB, which was supposed to make the second distribution. The terms of the SA specifically provide that the only garment workers who are to receive a second payment are those class members who cashed the first check.

Prior to making the second distribution in 2007, several garment workers came to the GOB office and stated that they should have been included in the original class of persons but they were somehow left out. We verified that these workers were employed by the actual factories that were sued in the case and the CNMI Labor Department also provided some assistance in verifying their claims. As a result, the GOB again went to U.S. District Court and asked if these 332 workers who were not paid the first time could be added to the list of class members and who can therefore receive a first check. Once again, Judge Munson accommodated these workers by giving us permission to include them as class members. The GOB did not have the Gilardi software, so these workers were paid an average amount based on the lowest and highest amount paid to the class members by Gilardi in the first distribution.

The payment of the second distribution was based on the information supplied to the GOB by Gilardi. Only if a worker contacted the GOB and changed their address did we have our own information. Otherwise, information as to which workers had cashed the first distribution check and their correct address was supplied by Gilardi. Utilizing the services of only one secretary and one translator, the GOB printed and mailed close to 14,000 checks for the second distribution. The GOB computed the amount by simply taking all of the money that was available and dividing it by the number of workers that were supposed to receive a second check. The amount for each worker came to $145. So, to be perfectly clear, even if a worker received $26.36 the first time, as some workers have stated to the press, they should have received a second check of $145 from the GOB. If they did not, it is because they were not reported as one of those class members who had cashed the first check or their address was incorrect. Once again, all of the checks that were sent out were not cashed. Those returned checks created the leftover amount that was recently distributed.

To be continued tomorrow.

THOUGHTS

From Page 11

is that only indigenous persons were mentioned, which shuts the door on non-indigenous U.S. citizens who have invested in the islands. Doesn't this ring of discrimination? An astute investor, foreign or U.S., examining business opportunities might well think so and reason "if part of the community is left out of participating in such an important decision, can the lawmakers leave me out of future decisions impacting my business?" NMI politicians must realize that everything they do or imply is out there for all to see and read. The Internet has changed everything when it come to getting information.

Potential investors might also reason that, if certain people are disgruntled with the relationship with the U.S. Government after so many years in association, something must be wrong either with the relationship or those few who are dissatisfied."

This brings to mind a statement made a few years ago by the Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of Interior who remarked when a change in the political relationship was mentioned by a NMI representative. One wonders how many times this issue must be brought up? Here's what she said: "Freedom to choose a political status carries with it the responsibility, first, to make an informed choice and second, to live with the benefits and responsibilities of that choice." Further the official stated, "for insular leaders to argue that what they freely chose 15 (sic) years ago is not what they thought they were choosing is a criticism of those who chose, not those who offered the choice. "

I also recall a comment made by a member of Congress when a delegation from the islands implied they might encourage independence. The U.S. congressman replied, "That can be arranged—be careful what you wish for." If I remember correctly the island delegation quickly dropped the subject. Perhaps they realized that independence is very expensive when you have to support the cost yourself.

It's wise to maintain a proper perspective. The CNMI is hard up for money. Currently its Gross Domestic Product is less than that of a medium-sized U.S. city. Saipan's area of 46.5 square miles is about the size of Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park in North Carolina and the CNMI's estimated population would fit easily into one side of an average size football stadium in the U.S. The vast majority of the NMI's infrastructure improvement has been financed by the U.S. Treasury. The paved roads, the air and seaport improvements, jail, educational and hospital facilities, etc., if not financed entirely, then in major part by the U.S. government from the approximately $1 billion provided the NMI over recent years.

To be continued.

Editor's Note: The author has been a project specific investment advisor identifying and documenting a variety of privately financed productive enterprises for foreign governments in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands as well as development finance institutions, including the World Bank. He specialized in methods to stimulate economic growth through increased private foreign investment.

A MATTER

From Page 11

banks in the world proceed from Tokyo!

Whether it is the recently announced multi-billion US armaments' trade to Taiwan, or Obama's not too subtle suggestion that China is artificially manipulating its currency to remain eminently competitive, the clash in official claims and disclaims is not for the sake of arriving at the truth, but in the effort to have someone lose or save face.

We do not propose that Obama, Clinton, et al, desist from thinking dialectically in the fashion that scientific thought taught the world since Hegel enunciated this basis of modern scientific method, nor should we be surprised each time China reaches down to the bowels of its foundational understanding to act like a twittering tweeter of a tween, but it helps to understand that the primordial act of imaging a self has been a human civilizing act. The Greco-Roman world created "personae" for social decorum, while Kung Fu Zi created lines of relationships that puts a premium to what Filipinos mean when they say, "Ano na lang ang sasabihin nila?" (What will people say?).

When our legislators claim that someone has been disrespectful, we are in the same ballpark of losing, saving or defending face. If saving and defending face is the basis of maintaining relationships, then, let it at least be understood that the face emanates from the activity of choice, and the meaning derived is from the creation of our own making. Better yet, let the preoccupation with face, reputation, respect, honor, etc., take a back seat to the authority of authenticity, which is the mark of humanity in our time.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, 2nd Floor, Morgen Building
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel(670)664-8300 • Fax(670)664-8315
Website: www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO), hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 09, 2010, at 9:30 A.M. at the CRM conference room, 1st floor Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. OTHER MATTERS
1. Tinian Municipal Landfill
– CRM Reference No. TMS-2009-X-080
a. Permit status determination

III. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the CRM Agency Officials may vote to meet in executive session.]

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-10-2301

For: Legal Services

Closing Date: February 12, 2010
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to:
The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

NMI Boy Scouts mark program's 100th anniversary

The Northern Marianas Boy Scouts are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America with NMI Boy Scout Week this Feb. 8-14.

The week will be highlighted by proclamation signing by the governor, service projects, membership recruitment drive, and a Boy Scout Picnic and Fun day on Saturday, Feb. 13, at American Memorial Park.

A lot of volunteers are behind the scenes, making every effort to make this celebration a success in terms of recruitment and showcasing the program.

The newly appointed District Chairman, Jess Muna, and Island Director Cal Reyes are busy promoting, planning, meeting, soliciting assistances, making sure the proclamations are read, the boy scouts and cub scouts are getting their uniforms and registering.

Last week, the Governor's Office had the proclamation reading. This Friday, the Saipan and Tinian mayors will have their readings of resolutions and proclamations. Bishop Thomas Camacho will also issue a pastoral letter promoting the program in the various parishes.

Last Saturday, former Eagle Scout Will Hunter and a few others registered scouts at the Daok Park playground in Susupe and throughout the week a series of activities in the various public schools will be happening, including flag raising ceremonies, wearing uniforms, cleaning, fun walks, and other activities.

The highlight is Saturday, Feb. 13, starting from 9am to 3pm, during which the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, parents and others who are interested in joining the program will be having a whole day of fun, barbecue, and games.

The youth movement that began in England in 1907 found its way to the United States and on Feb. 8, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America began serving the youth of our country. Later that year, on Aug. 14, 1910, Scouting came to Hawaii and the Pacific and was introduced to the Mariana Islands after World War II.

Visit nmiboyscouts.blogspot.com for more up to date information on what is happening throughout the week. ***(PR)***

Kan Pacific Fall Camporee

A look back at past years' boy scouting activities

By OSCAR C. CAMAHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, Camacho will be submitting a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program.

Camp started last night. Twenty-two boys came. Eighteen camped overnight. Half of them are new. The other half are old timers and Tinian veterans. Two of the boys, Calvin and Robert B., are big-bodied kids. One with manners and a bit shy while the other without restraint on the mouth. Classes, day activities, patrol, formations, assignments and rules were discussed. Introductions were done and, of course, Roque Junior had to tell jokes. Kelly, Roque and Calvin are all brothers. Ray Camacho, J.T. Taitano, Jack Manibusan, and Chris Matias formed the Binadu Patrol. Robert Pangelinan, Lee, Jason Rollingson from Australia, Jay Mathias, Dominic Camacho, Zachary, Rudy Boy King and the two tiny ones, Jeremy and LeanderVillagomez, make up the Totut Patrol. Food was had and two boys secured their tents. Mr. Wilfred Villagomez took over command and I attended the leaders' meeting. Over a hundred boys are camping. Garapan Cub Scouts had over 30 boys. Oleai Troop 917 and Rota Troop 915 are our neighbors. Kagman, Tanapag Cub Scouts, San Antonio Cubs and Explorers came, chewed betel nut, and talked to other adults.

Robert Bansil and the rest of the Tataga Patrol stayed till early morning. There was not much that I could do except ignore them and have them suffer in the morning. As soon as sleep was had, Mr. Villagomez and Angie came and started kitchen chores. Breakfast is being prepared by Binadu Patrol; and the Tatagas are given change to share some more.

As soon as it was six, Mr. Villagomez went from tent to tent calling for the ones assigned to do the cooking. We had scrambled eggs and rice for breakfast and it was filling. The other patrol had to do the cleanup for tent inspection. The day's activities were to begin at 8:30. Classes included the man'amko teaching the boys weaving and other stuffs with coconut leaves. The classes did not endure and the boys were escaping the boredom by wandering off in different directions in small groups. By afternoon, the enthusiasm picked up in the "Talaya Throwing" class. The boys gathered and pretended to be a school of fish while Justice Villagomez threw the net and pulled them in. This was repeated so many times, each time heightening the excitement of the boys, especially on the cub scouts from Garapan. While Justice Villagomez was casting his net, the leaders, adults and parents were occupied with the killing of two pigs, one to be roasted and the other fritada. Angie Atalig, Troop 912's own committee secretary, was selected to be the overall head cook. The older boys brushed, turned, basked, and churned the fire, roasting a pig the whole afternoon under the kalaskas tree.

Our boys flew a kite, played football against another troop and during break time and before lunch, Troop 912 walked along the shore of Wing Beach, witnessing six incredibly gigantic fishes going in and out as if entertaining us or teasing us for not having any net, line, or spear. We walked all the way to Kan Pacific and got our ride from Mrs. Arinta Camacho. We were running late for lunch. Lunch was had and back to schedule. The boys were entertained by a group of Japanese artists on aikido as the night approached.

Dinner was a feast—fritada, catered shrimps and other food, roasted pig, beef steak, fried chicken, salad machalek, desserts and punch. Families came and sat with their kids. The night came and the feasting continued. The boys played hide and seek, the adults talked and talked. There was no campfire, but nonetheless the camp was again a success!

ARTHUR WELCH

NMI's newest Eagle Scout

Arthur Welch passed his Eagle Board of Review on Jan. 26, 2010. He is a member of Troop 913 and is the son of Valrick and Turiana Welch.

Arthur has been active in scouting since he was 8 years old when he joined the cub scouts. In cub scouts he won first place in the rain gutter regatta, and won different awards for a cake that looked like a laptop computer, a cake with a sinking ship, four different pinewood derby cars, and a space derby flying vehicle.

Arthur Welch

At 11 years old he joined the boy scouts and recorded 62 service hours to the community, participating in 14 hikes for a total of 93.4 miles, and 24 campouts for a total of 37 days. The numbers are actually higher because none of his activities as an 11 year old scout were recorded.

Arthur put in service hours on four eagle projects before doing his own project, and since then he has worked on one other eagle project. Arthur did his eagle project at San Vicente Elementary School where he spent seven years as a student. The school had a problem with the flame trees that had become rotten, which made them a danger to students. Two trees fell (luckily when no students were on campus) and branches would periodically fall. Arthur talked with Kinai Salas, the SVES principal, and offered to help coordinate the removal of the trees. Arthur, along with Daniel Villagas, contacted different agencies, in coordination with the San Vicente administration and PTA. The trees where the students sit during assemblies were cut down by CUC (the other trees were cut down by parent volunteers). The tons of wood left behind was removed by boy scouts and other volunteers led by Arthur.

Along with scouting, Arthur was a member of the Saipan Swim Club, and for a short time the Tsunami swim team. He won three Mathcount trophies, and earned his brown belt in aikido, and a brown belt in judo. He is currently the assistant 11-year-old scout leader (Troop 913 has a separate program for the 11 year olds, who can only camp out for three nights and their dad or guardian must go with them. The focus on the 11-year-old scouts is to get them from beginning scouts to 1st class scout by the time they turn 12 when they join the regular scouting program). He is also one of the judo coaches for the Saipan Judo Club.

Arthur plans to continue earning merit badges and working with scouts until he turns 19, at which time he plans to serve a full-time, two year mission for his church. ***(Oscar C. Camaho)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Kristina Itani, who celebrated her 3rd birthday on Feb. 6, 2010, at the Taste of India. Happy birthday to you, from dad and mom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Roxanne Ben, who celebrated her sixth birthday on Feb. 4, 2010. We love you very much. Greetings come from Tatay, Nanay, kuya Royce, and ate Rane Ben.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Frustrated job seekers deciding to call it quits

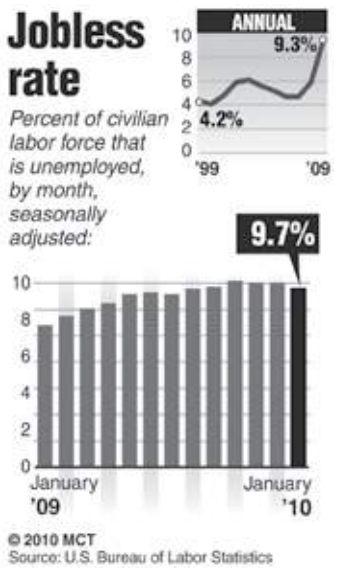
By CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
AP BUSINESS WRITER

The economy is growing. Yet it's creating few jobs. That's why in the past eight months, 1.8 million people without jobs left the labor market. Many had grown so frustrated by their failure to find a job that they threw up their hands and quit looking for one.

And it's why Barbara Bishop sat down at her kitchen table in suburban Atlanta last month and joined their ranks. Her decision came seven months after she quit a PR job that seemed about to be axed. Sending out resumes got her nowhere. So Bishop made a list of her skills and decided to launch her own business.

"I don't want to look any more," she said of the job hunt. "It's become very discouraging."

The nation's unemployment rate is 9.7 percent. But so many jobless people have quit looking that if they're combined with the number of part-time workers who'd prefer to work full time, the so-called "underemployment" rate is 16.5 percent.



Their outsize numbers show that even though the economy is growing, the job market is stagnant. Employers remain reluctant to hire.

The exodus did halt in January, when a net total of 111,000 people re-entered the job market. But 661,000 had left in December. And the overall trend since spring has been people leaving the work force.

"It's very unusual," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "At this point in the business cycle, we should be seeing some sort of labor force growth. Layoffs have abated, but there really has been no pickup in hiring."

Job creation was stronger early in previous recoveries. And jobless people responded by streaming back into the labor force. Even before the 1990-1991 and 2001 recessions ended, for instance, more people entered than left the job market, according to an analysis by Moody's Economy.com. The work force did shrink after the severe 1981-1982 recession ended—but not as severely as it has this time, the analysis shows.

Some workers are concluding it's more practical to return to school, start a business or care at home for their kids until the job market improves. In some cases, it even makes financial sense to stop looking for work.

AP

MAIDEN FLIGHT
Spectators gather to watch the new Boeing 747-8 freighter during taxi tests for the new airplane on Saturday Feb. 6, 2010 at Paine Field in Everett, Wash. At 250 feet long, the plane is the largest Boeing has ever built and about 18 feet longer than the existing 747-400 jumbo jet. It adopts technology used in the composite 787 Dreamliner for the new 747-8's wings, engines and cockpit. The 747-8 is expected to make its maiden flight Monday, Feb. 8, 2010. Boeing also is developing a passenger version of the plane. It lists 76 orders for the freighter and 32 for the 747-8 passenger jet, with the vast majority from international customers.

Reports: Toyota decides to recall Prius in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota has decided to issue a recall for the Prius in Japan, media reports said Sunday, as the company told dealers in the United States it is preparing to repair the brakes on thousands of the hybrid vehicles there. It was unclear whether Toyota planned a formal U.S. recall.

The company is already in the middle of a global recall of 4.5 million other vehicles over defective gas pedals and floor mats that could cause unintended acceleration. Those problems and criticism of Toyota's response to them have sullied the stellar reputation for quality long enjoyed by the world's biggest automaker.

Toyota decided on a separate recall in Japan on Saturday covering its latest Prius model and has notified dealers, Japan's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri, reported without naming sources. It said Toyota would announce the move early this week after consulting with the Japanese government. Japan's Kyodo News agency and TV Asahi carried similar reports. Kyodo said at least 170,000 vehicles in Japan would be subject to the recall.

Toyota, which said last week it was still deciding what to do about the Prius and that a recall was an option, did not confirm the Yomiuri report.

"We will make an announcement soon on the action we plan to take," spokeswoman Ririko Takeuchi said Sunday.

A phone call to the section at Japan's transport ministry dealing with recalls went unanswered Sunday morning.

The brake problem affects about 270,000 Priuses that were sold in the U.S. and Japan starting last May. The company blames a software glitch and says it has already fixed vehicles that went on sale since last month.

Separately, Bob Carter, a Toyota group vice president, sent an e-mail message Friday night to U.S. dealers saying the automaker is working on a Prius repair plan and will disclose more details early this week. At least 100 drivers of Prius cars in the U.S. have complained to the government that their brakes seemed to fail momentarily when they were driving on bumpy roads. The government says the problem is suspected in four crashes and two minor injuries.

Nation

'Snowmageddon' blankets Mid-Atlantic in white

AP

A Waynesboro, Va. fireman walks away from a tractor-trailer that ran off of Interstate 64 into the median near Fishersville, Va. Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Skiers lapped the Reflecting Pool along the National Mall; others used the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for a slope. Hundreds crowded Dupont Circle for a snowball fight organized online, while elsewhere the capital's famed avenues were all but desolate.

Washington took on a surreal, almost magical feel as it was buried under nearly 2 feet of snow Saturday in one of the worst blizzards in the city's history. The nearly 18 inches recorded at Reagan National Airport was the fourth-highest storm total for the city. At nearby Dulles International Airport, the record was shattered with 32 inches.

"Right now it's like the Epcot Center version of Washington," said Mary Lord, 56, a D.C. resident for some 30 years who had skied around the city.

"Snowmageddon," President Barack Obama called it. And even the president's motorcade—which featured SUVs instead of limousines—fell victim as a tree limb snapped and crashed onto a motorcade vehicle carrying press. No one was injured.

From Pennsylvania to New Jersey, south to Virginia, the region was under at least 2 feet of snow. Parts of northern Maryland had 3 feet.

And while the storm created serious inconveniences for many who were without power and faced with digging out, the monuments at Washington's heart seemed even more stately and serene.

At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, soldiers' names were buried 16 rows deep, while higher up snow had settled into the letters so they stood out against the black background. The wreaths of the World War II Memorial looked like giant white-frosted doughnuts. The big attraction at the Lincoln Memorial was not the nation's 16th president, but rather a snowman with eyes of copper pennies bearing Lincoln's likeness.

Obama, a snow veteran from his days in Chicago, spoke at the Democratic National Committee winter meeting and thanked those for being "willing to brave a blizzard. Snowmageddon here in D.C."

But after that, the president went inside, hunkering down in the White House.

The snow fell too quickly for crews to keep up, and officials begged residents to stay home. The hope was everyone could return to work on Monday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mudslides sweep away cars, assault homes near LA

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. (AP)—Thunderous mudslides damaged dozens of homes, swept away cars and pushed furniture into the streets of the foothills north of Los Angeles on Saturday as intense winter rain poured down mountains denuded by a summer wildfire. No injuries were reported but residents and emergency responders were caught off guard by the unpredicted ferocity of the storm, which damaged more than 40 homes and dozens of vehicles. Some 540 homes were eventually evacuated at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains.

House fire in Warwick, RI, kills 5, including baby

WARWICK, R.I. (AP)—A house fire that officials said might have simmered undetected for hours Saturday killed five people, including a mother and her 7-month-old baby, whose body was carried out of the house in the arms of a firefighter. Firefighters found the victims unconscious and severely burned on the second floor of a single-family house in a residential neighborhood, Warwick Fire Chief Kevin Sullivan said. They were called to the house just before noon by a friend of the victims who was sleeping on the first floor after a late-night party at the home, he said.

Missionary who was held in N. Korea arrives in US

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An American missionary who strode illegally into North Korea on Christmas Day and was detained by the communist regime for 43 days was welcomed back to the United States Saturday evening in an emotional reunion with family members at Los Angeles International Airport. Robert Park was greeted by his parents and brother in a private location at the airport after arriving on a commercial flight from Beijing. Earlier Saturday, the 28-year-old Korean-American from Tucson, Ariz., flew to the Chinese capital from Pyongyang.

Authorities: 2 planes collide in Colorado; 3 die

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—A small plane clipped the towline of another plane pulling a glider Saturday, sparking a fiery midair crash in Colorado and killing at least three people, authorities said. The glider disconnected from the plane just before the second plane hit the tow rope, Boulder County sheriff's office spokesman Rick Brough said. NTSB field investigator Jennifer Rodi said the accident happened at about 1:30 p.m. near the Boulder Municipal Airport. The glider landed safely—with no injuries to any of the three people on board—just after the planes made impact, authorities said.

Asia

RP's Lacson ordered arrested

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An arrest warrant was issued Friday for a Philippine opposition senator who fled the country to avoid murder charges he says are political harassment.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson faces immediate arrest upon his return to the country, Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said. "We now have the warrant of arrest and the law is after him now," she said.

Lacson

The former national police chief, who is one of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's staunchest critics, left for Hong Kong on Jan. 5, immigration records show. Devanadera and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said they do not know whether Lacson is still in Hong Kong.

In a statement Tuesday, Lacson said he was a victim of a conspiracy and feared for his life if he stayed in the Philippines to fight the charges.

"I will not allow Mrs. Arroyo and her cohorts ... the pleasure of seeing my life miserable and in danger," Lacson said. "I am not guilty, but I cannot risk putting my life and security at the mercy of that evil conspiracy."

Lacson's lawyer Alex Avisado said he will file a motion before the Manila Regional Trial Court to suspend the arrest warrant. If that is denied, the motion will be elevated to the Court of Appeals, he added.

"I would suggest to him that he should come back and face the issue squarely," Enrile said.

State prosecutor Peter Ong said last month the charges against Lacson were based on physical evidence and witness testimony, including that of a former police officer claiming that Lacson gave the order to kill a prominent publicist and his driver in 2000.

Publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer represented top political figures, including ousted President Joseph Estrada. Both Lacson and Estrada deny any hand in the murders.

Report: Chinese envoy meets N. Korea officials

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A special Chinese envoy met North Korean officials at the start of a four-day trip to Pyongyang that is expected to focus on persuading the North to return to nuclear disarmament talks, a report said Sunday.

Wang Jiarui, head of the liaison office of China's ruling Communist Party, got off an airport bus in Pyongyang on Saturday and shook hands with a North Korean official, according to footage aired by broadcaster APTN.

Later Saturday, Wang met senior Workers' Party officials over a banquet and toasted to the development of bilateral ties, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported, citing North Korea's official Korean Central Broadcasting Station.

The state radio did not elaborate on what Wang and the North Korean officials discussed during the banquet, Yonhap said. The South Korean news agency said Wang was expected to meet leader Kim Jong Il during his trip.

Yonhap and other South Korean media have reported that Wang's trip appears aimed at persuading the North to rejoin stalled six-nation talks on dismantling its nuclear program in return for aid and other benefits.

Last year, North Korea walked out of the talks—held with China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States—in anger over international condemnation of a long-range rocket launch. The country later conducted a nuclear test, test-launched a series of ballistic missiles and restarted its plutonium-producing facility, inviting widespread condemnation and tighter U.N. sanctions.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China 'resolutely' opposes Obama-Dalai Lama meet

BEIJING (AP)—China expressed "resolute" opposition to President Barack Obama's planned meeting with the Dalai Lama, saying it would further strain ties between the world powers. Tibet and the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader are among the issues China views with great sensitivity. China accuses the Dalai Lama of pushing for Tibetan independence, which he denies. China warned late Friday that such meetings could further undermine relations with the U.S. Just a week ago, China cut some military ties with the U.S. and threatened sanctions against American companies involved in a planned arms sale to Taiwan.

'Blood for blood' chants mark funeral in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Thousands of people chanted "Blood for blood" and "We want freedom" at a funeral Saturday for the second teenager in a week whose death has been blamed on police and government forces in Indian-controlled Kashmir's main city. Widespread protests have rocked the disputed Himalayan region for six days, and thousands of armed troops patrolled the city warning residents to stay indoors. On Friday, paramilitary soldiers charged at a group of people gathered on a playground in Srinagar and began firing as the people fled, killing 17-year-old Zahid Farooq Shah.

Thousands pack funerals for Pakistan bomb victims

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Beating their chests with hands, thousands of minority Shiite Muslims attended a mass funeral Saturday for those killed in a pair of bombings in Pakistan's largest city. At least 33 people died and 170 others were wounded in Karachi on Friday when suspected Sunni militants targeted a bus carrying Shiite worshippers and then attacked a major hospital treating victims of the first bomb, said government spokesman Jamil Soomro. Karachi has a history of religious violence between Shiite and Sunni Muslims, and the city has been tense in recent weeks due to clashes between rival political parties that have left dozens dead.

Afghan police patrol kills 7 civilians

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan border police mistook a group of villagers gathering wood near the Pakistan border as insurgents and opened fire, killing seven civilians, a police official said Saturday. All six officers involved in Friday's pre-dawn shooting have been arrested and the incident is under investigation, said Gen. Abdul Raziq, the commander of the border police of southern Afghanistan. The Afghan-Pakistan border area is a common transit route for both Taliban militants and smugglers, and border police regularly are attacked in the area.

Australia mourns lives lost in wildfires 1 year on

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Australia mourned the victims of its worst-ever wildfires a year ago Sunday with solemn ceremonies in big-city cathedrals and barbecues in small towns still bearing burn scars. On Feb. 7 last year, hundreds of fires raged across southeastern Australia as temperatures soared and powerful winds whipped blazes into firestorms. By the end of the day, 173 people were dead and more than 2,000 homes razed. Sun-baked Australia endures hundreds of wildfires every summer that scorch vast areas of forest and farmland and sometimes cause deaths. But the scale of death and destruction on the day now dubbed Black Saturday deeply shocked the country.

World

Haitian women becoming crime targets after quake

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Bernice Chamblain keeps a machete under her frayed mattress to ward off sexual predators and one leg wrapped around a bag of rice to stop nighttime thieves from stealing her daughters' food.

She's barely slept since Haiti's catastrophic earthquake Jan. 12 forced her and other homeless women and children into tent camps, where they are easy targets for gangs of men.

Women have always had it bad in Haiti. Now things are worse.

"I try not to sleep," says Chamblain, 22, who lost her father and now lives in a squalid camp with her mother and aunts near the Port-au-Prince airport. "Some of the men who escaped from prison are coming around to the camps and causing problems for the women. We're all scared but what can we do? Many of our husbands, boyfriends and fathers are dead."

Reports of attacks are increasing: Women are robbed of coupons needed to obtain food at distribution points. Others relay rumors of rape and sexual intimidation at the outdoor camps, now home to more than a half million earthquake victims.

A curtain of darkness drops on most of the encampments at night. Only flickering candles or the glow of cell phones provide light. Families huddle under plastic tarps because there aren't enough tents. With no showers and scant sanitation, men often lurk around places where women or young girls bathe out of buckets. Clusters of teenage girls sleep in the open streets while others wander the camps alone.

Whalers, activists clash again off Antarctica

SYDNEY (AP)—Anti-whaling ship the Bob Barker and a Japanese harpoon boat collided in icy Antarctic waters in the second major clash this year in increasingly aggressive confrontations between conservationists and the whaling fleet.

No one was injured in the clash Saturday, which each side blamed on the other.

The U.S.-based activist group Sea Shepherd, which sends vessels to confront the Japanese fleet each year, accused the Japanese ship of deliberately rammed the Bob Barker—named after the U.S. game show host who donated millions of dollars for the anti-whaling group to buy it.

But Japan's Fisheries Agency said the activist boat caused the collision by suddenly approaching the harpoon vessel No. 3 Yushin Maru to throw bottles containing bad-smelling butyric acid at the Japanese ship.

AP

In this photo released by Sea Shepherd, anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd's ship the Bob Barker, left, and Japanese harpoon boat the Yushin Maru 3 collide in the waters off Antarctica Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010.

The agency accused Sea Shepherd of "an act of sabotage" on the Japanese expedition, noting that it is allowed under world whaling regulations as a scientific expedition. Conservationists call the annual hunt a cover for commercial whaling.

WORLD BRIEFS

Haitian lawyer for jailed US missionaries fired

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The Haitian lawyer for 10 U.S. Baptists charged with child kidnapping tried to bribe the missionaries' way out of jail and has been fired, the attorney who hired him said Saturday night. The Haitian lawyer, Edwin Coq, denied the allegation. He said the $60,000 he requested from the Americans' families was his fee. Jorge Puello, the attorney in the neighboring Dominican Republic retained by relatives of the 10 American missionaries after their arrest last week, told The Associated Press that he fired Coq on Friday night. He had hired Coq to represent the detainees at Haitian legal proceedings.

Hamas backtracks on apology over harming civilians

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Hamas government in Gaza on Saturday backtracked on its apology earlier this week in which it expressed regret for harming Israeli civilians in rocket attacks. The apology had signaled a rare deviation from Hamas' violent ideology, and the subsequent zigzag reflects the Islamic militants' conflicting objectives. The apology for the rockets was part of the Hamas government's response to a U.N. report that alleged both Hamas and Israel committed war crimes during Israel's three-week Gaza offensive last winter. The U.N. investigators, headed by jurist Richard Goldstone, accused Hamas of firing rockets indiscriminately at Israeli civilians.

Western officials dismiss Iranian nuclear proposal

MUNICH (AP)—Western powers pressured Tehran on Saturday to commit to a proposal designed to dispel concerns about its nuclear program, dismissing conciliatory comments from Iranian officials as mere rhetoric meant to forestall new sanctions. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, on a trip to Turkey, said it may be time to take a "different tack" with Tehran. Other top defense officials at the Munich Security Conference rejected overtures from Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki as nothing new. The frustration reflects concerns that Iran will use the proposal only to buy more time to advance its nuclear ambitions and thwart sanctions. Standing in the way of new sanctions is China, whose Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in Munich on Friday urged the world to be patient and keep up diplomatic efforts with Iran.

Focus

Missed signs in Toyota recalls

WASHINGTON (AP)—When Peter Boddeart's Lexus lurched forward and rear-ended another vehicle in Fauquier County, Va., earning him a police citation, he wrote to federal regulators imploring them to look into his case "before someone ends up seriously injured or killed."

That was in 2003.

The years since have seen hundreds of drivers' complaints about unwanted acceleration of their Toyotas, six inconclusive federal investigations, multiple reports of deaths and repeated denials from the automaker that it had a major problem on its hands.

That's just the sort of bureaucratic inertia Barack Obama pointedly criticized as a presidential candidate. Yet his administration was without a federal highway safety chief for most of its first year and, like the Bush administration before it, missed signals in the Toyota case.

After several investigations, it was only last week that Toyota owners learned federal regulators, concerned that the company was not taking apparently dangerous defects seriously enough, traveled to Japan in December to light a fire under corporate executives. Meanwhile, millions of Toyotas continued to be driven by drivers unaware of the potential scope of the problem, and the cars continued to be sold.

Combined with a recall involving the toxic metal cadmium that arose from press scrutiny rather than federal oversight, the Toyota episode has raised questions about whether the government under Democrats will be any more agile in enforcement of consumer protections than the Bush administration was.

"When you've got a government regulatory agency, it has to be a government cop on the corporate beat," said Joan Claybrook, who was chief of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration during the Carter administration. "And it's got to act like a cop."

Claybrook said that while most of the Toyota investigations took place during the Bush administration, the absence of a permanent administrator during Obama's first year prevented a new team from conducting a full review of dozens of pending defect investigations and a fresh look at the Toyota cases.

Toyota's string of recalls burst into the open in late September, leaving millions of car owners unsure if their vehicles were safe to drive and tarnishing the reputation of a company once synonymous with safe, reliable cars. The road to the recall of millions of Camrys, Corollas and other popular Toyota models began years ago, touched off by warnings from Boddeart, who died in April, and others who worried their cars might bolt forward and cause a crash.

Back in 2003, Boddeart told regulators that his accident marked the third time his 1999 Lexus LS400 accelerated unexpectedly and asked them to investigate. Five months later, the 83-year-old's petition to the agency was panned "in view of the need to allocate and prioritize NHTSA's limited resources," a common refrain in rejection letters.

Several investigations followed.

In 2004, Carol Mathews, a nurse from Rockville, Md., crashed into a tree when her Lexus suddenly accelerated. She asked the agency to investigate. The government reviewed problems with electronic throttles in about 1 million Toyota and Lexus vehicles and found more than 100 complaints.

Seeking to limit the scope of the review, Toyota urged the government to consider a "vehicle surge to be something less than a wide-open throttle." No defect was found after 4 1/2 months of investigating and the case was closed.

In July 2005, Jordan Ziprin, a retired attorney in Phoenix, asked the government to dig into the problem after his 2002 Camry XLE spun out of control and crashed into an electric utility box. "Had there been any vehicles or pedestrians in the street, deaths would probably have followed," he wrote.

Reviewing Toyota models built from 2002 to 2005, the agency found that 20 percent of 432 complaints reviewed involved "sudden or unintended acceleration." But regulators said the complaint rate was "unremarkable." The government closed the case, citing "insufficient evidence."

A separate investigation launched in March 2007 reviewed allegations that floor mats were interfering with accelerator pedals. Toyota said a month later that there was "no possibility of the pedal interference with the all-weather floor mat if it's placed properly and secured."

By that August, government investigators had tied the problem to 12 deaths and a survey of 600 Lexus owners found about 10 percent reported sudden or unexpected acceleration. In September, Toyota recalled 55,000 Camry and ES350 vehicles to replace the floor mats. But that was hardly the end of the problems.

In January 2008, William Kronholm of Helena, Mont., complained about his 2006 Tacoma truck accelerating while he hit the brakes. During the investigation, Toyota told NHTSA it believed complaints by Kronholm, a retired Associated Press editor, and others were attributed to "extensive media coverage" and many of the problems cited by consumers—including lurching when the vehicle came to a stop and engine idle speed changes when the vehicle was stopped—were "minor drivability concerns." Kronholm's case was closed in August 2008 without a defect finding.

Last August, a high-speed crash near San Diego killed a California highway patrol officer, his wife, daughter and brother-in-law, bringing renewed attention to the problems, now the regulatory responsibility of the Obama administration.

The highway patrol officer's loaner Lexus ES350 reached speeds of more than 120 mph, struck an SUV, launched off an embankment, rolled several times and burst into flames. The family frantically called 911 from the Lexus, telling the dispatcher the pedal was stuck and they couldn't stop.

In October, Toyota issued its largest-ever U.S. recall, involving about 4 million vehicles. The fix, which is still under way, includes reconfiguring the gas pedal and installing brake override software on some vehicles.

In November, Toyota said federal regulators had concluded "no defect exists" in the case, drawing a rare rebuke from the government. NHTSA said the company issued inaccurate information. In December, federal officials traveled to Japan to urge Toyota to take the safety concerns seriously and report defects promptly. Toyota said it would comply.

On Jan. 12, a top Toyota executive said the company was addressing the problems. "We have learned from these mistakes and we are confident that we're doing the right thing for our customers," Toyota Motor Sales USA president Yoshi Inaba said in a Detroit speech.

Nine days later, Toyota recalled 2.3 million vehicles over concerns that the gas pedal could get stuck or fail to return to the idle position. Dealers are now engaged in an all-out blitz to fix the vehicles, inserting a small plate into the pedal assembly to deal with friction that could cause the problem.

Separately, Toyota also told dealers Friday that it's preparing a plan to repair the brakes on thousands of hybrid Prius cars in the U.S. and would disclose details in the coming week. More than 100 drivers of 2010 Prius cars have complained that their brakes seemed to fail momentarily when they were driving on bumpy roads.

The efforts have done little to soothe critics who have long thought the highway safety agency was too trusting of car companies and slow to push for higher standards. In Toyota's case, two of the company's top safety officials in Washington are former NHTSA employees.

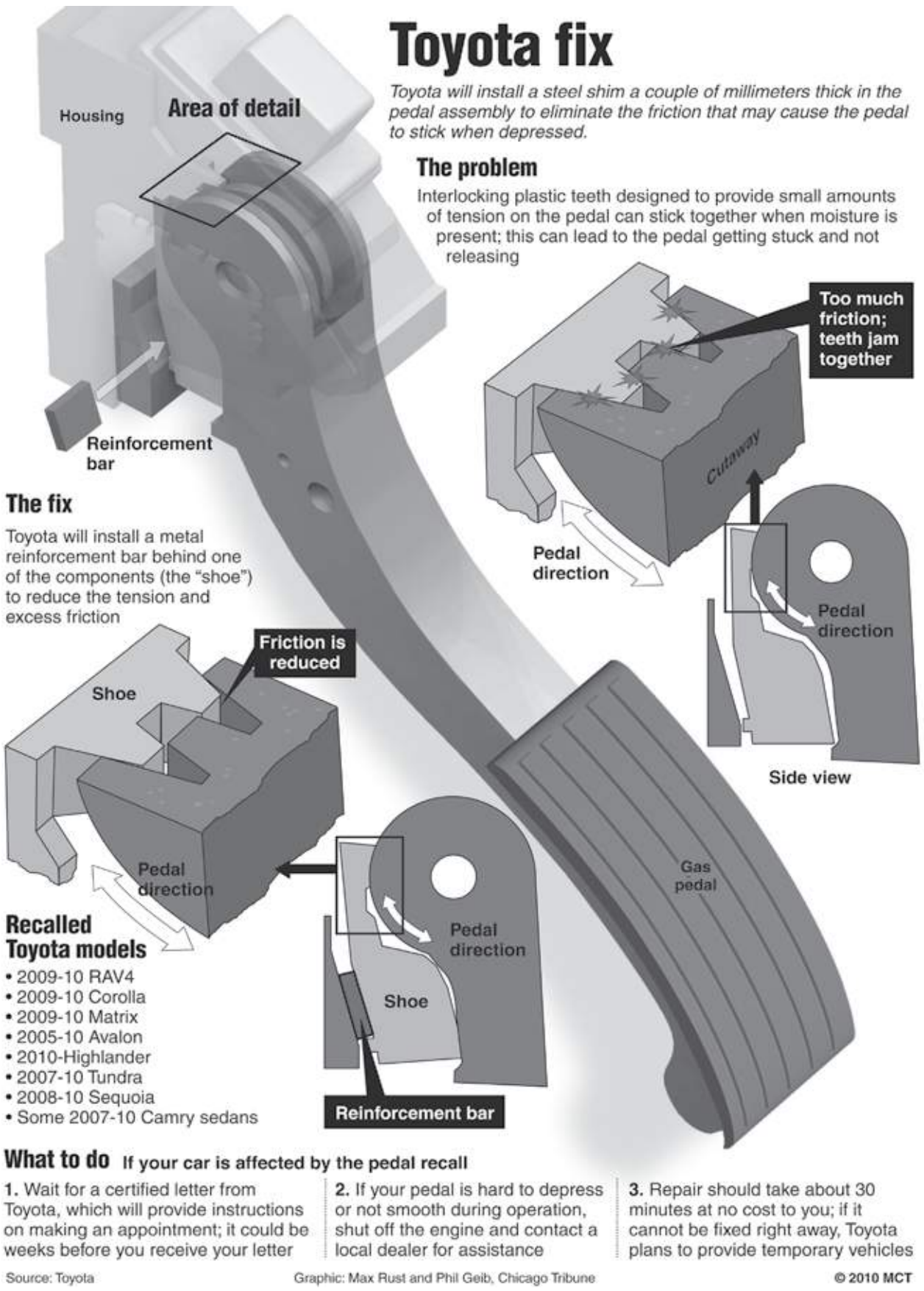
Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who exposed auto industry malfeasance in his 1960s best-seller, "Unsafe at Any Speed," said the problems stem from a "regulatory enforcement agency that turned itself, due to corporate pressure and White House neglect, into a consulting firm."

NHTSA was without a permanent administrator for most of the past year. Obama's first choice, Chuck Hurley, chief executive officer of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, withdrew from consideration after environmentalists criticized him for being too soft on fuel efficiency standards. It was not until December that Obama put forward David Strickland, a former counsel to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, who was confirmed.

Now fully engaged, the Transportation Department has stepped up its investigation and warned that Toyota could face civil penalties of up to $16 million for failing to issue timely recalls. But the government has sent a mixed message. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood advised owners of recalled Toyota to stop driving their vehicles last week, then quickly backtracked and said he misspoke.

Congress is investigating and lawmakers are planning at least two hearings on the Toyota recalls this month. Now some Republicans, whose party was accused of failing to protect consumers during the Bush administration, question whether the agency held Toyota accountable.

"It begs the question if this is an organization that has been broken for a long time," said Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., the top Republican on the House Oversight and Government Committee. "They do a lot of good things but are certainly not doing everything they should well enough."


Toyota fix
Toyota will install a steel shim a couple of millimeters thick in the pedal assembly to eliminate the friction that may cause the pedal to stick when depressed.
The problem
Interlocking plastic teeth designed to provide small amounts of tension on the pedal can stick together when moisture is present; this can lead to the pedal getting stuck and not releasing
Housing
Area of detail
Reinforcement bar
Too much friction; teeth jam together
Cutaway
Pedal direction
Pedal direction
Side view
The fix
Toyota will install a metal reinforcement bar behind one of the components (the "shoe") to reduce the tension and excess friction
Friction is reduced
Shoe
Pedal direction
Gas pedal
Pedal direction
Shoe
Reinforcement bar
Recalled Toyota models
• 2009-10 RAV4
• 2009-10 Corolla
• 2009-10 Matrix
• 2005-10 Avalon
• 2010-Highlander
• 2007-10 Tundra
• 2008-10 Sequoia
• Some 2007-10 Camry sedans
What to do If your car is affected by the pedal recall
1. Wait for a certified letter from Toyota, which will provide instructions on making an appointment; it could be weeks before you receive your letter
2. If your pedal is hard to depress or not smooth during operation, shut off the engine and contact a local dealer for assistance
3. Repair should take about 30 minutes at no cost to you; if it cannot be fixed right away, Toyota plans to provide temporary vehicles
Source: Toyota
Graphic: Max Rust and Phil Geib, Chicago Tribune
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Life & Style

Marianas Bikini Open bets create splash!

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The 12 finalists in the 2010 Marianas Bikini Open pose with two dance groups that also performed during the official presentation held Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, at the Hard Rock Café.

Six pairs of male and female contestants of the 2010 Marianas Bikini Open were officially introduced to the public on Saturday at the Hard Rock Café in a presentation that also featured dance performances by youth groups on island.

The event also served as the judging for the best pair and the winners of this special award will be announced during the official contest on Feb. 12, 2010.

The 12 finalists were chosen during two screenings, according to event organizer Sharmaine Casquero.

The finals night itself on Feb. 12 will feature the contestants wearing costumes made from recycled materials, formal wear, and other clothes provided by sponsors such as Hard Rock Cafe. The entrance fee will be $10, inclusive of one drink.

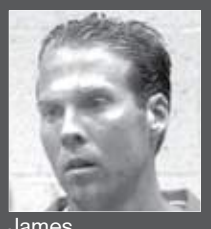
Proceeds from the show will be donated to the Marianas Island Nature Alliance. Casquero said the event is intended to highlight environmental issues among the youth on the islands. ***(PR)***

Jesse James Hollywood gets life in murder case

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Jesse James Hollywood was sentenced to life in prison Friday for orchestrating the kidnap-murder of a teenager, ending a 10-year legal odyssey that included an international manhunt and a movie inspired by the high-profile crime.

Superior Court Judge Brian Hill sentenced Hollywood, 30, to life without the possibility of parole in a Santa Barbara courtroom after denying a defense motion for a new trial.

Hollywood had faced a possible death penalty, but jurors recommended life after finding him guilty in July of first-degree murder. Prosecutors said Prosecutors said Hollywood ordered the killing of 15-year-old Nicholas Markowitz in August 2000 over a $1,200 drug debt owed by the victim's half-brother.



James

The case drew national interest because of the brazen daylight kidnapping of Markowitz from a San Fernando Valley street, the details of his murder and Hollywood's notorious name.

It also captured the attention of producers who made the 2007 movie "Alpha Dog," with Bruce Willis, Justin Timberlake and Emile Hirsch, who played "Johnny Truelove," a character based on Hollywood.

"I feel strongly that my client could not receive a fair trial because of the movie and the pretrial publicity," argued defense attorney James Blatt, who said Hollywood's case was the first ever in the U.S. depicted in a movie released prior to trial.

Teenage Spanish matador kills 6 bulls

AP

Bullfighter Jairo Miguel Sanchez Alonso is carried on the shoulders after killing six bulls during a bullfight in Caceres, Spain, on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010.

CACERES, Spain (AP)—A 16-year-old Spanish matador killed six bulls in one afternoon Saturday, pulling off a feat normally attempted only by seasoned veterans and winning trophies for his skill—ears from animals he had just slain.

Jairo Miguel Sanchez Alonso, who nearly died from a horrific goring in Mexico in 2007, smiled broadly and waved to a friendly hometown crowd after a pageant that took about two and a half hours.

A tall and slender boy who is also amazingly articulate for his age, he showed off his stuff in an arena called Plaza Era de los Martires, or Time of the Martyrs.

The bullfighter, who goes by the stage name of Jairo Miguel, turned in his best performance with bull No. 5, a hulking black specimen that weighed 435 kilograms (959 pounds).

After skillful cape-work, he finished off the bull with a single deathblow from his sword, sliding it into a spot where it severed the beast's spinal chord. With the rest of the bulls he needed around three stabs.

This is considered too many, and Jairo Miguel acknowledged frustration with that part of his work, although he felt his effort was a success overall and said he was never scared.

"I brought out the best in myself that I could," he told The Associated Press. "It was a good afternoon of bullfighting, and people were not bored."

For the fifth bull, he was awarded the animal's severed ears, one of the bullfighting world's prizes for a job well done. He took a slow victory lap around the ring, showing the organs to the crowd.

Minutes before he stepped into the ring, Jairo Miguel hugged his father Antonio, a former bullfighter, and in a powerfully emotional scene they both cried.

Wearing a sparkling white suit of lights with gold sequins that twinkled in the late afternoon sun, the young toreador was greeted by a two-thirds full 5,000-seat bullring in Caceres, in Spain's southwest Extremadura region.

The average age for matadors in Spain is 25 to 30. Jairo Miguel spent around four years fighting in Latin America to escape the strict age limit of 16 in Spain.

The normal format for a bullfight is three matadors taking on two animals each. Aficionados say it is extremely rare for a matador as young as 16 to fight six, a challenge requiring great physical and mental stamina.

In an interview the night before the big fight, Jairo Miguel said he was nervous but confident. A boy with a baby face and a nice smile, he bears a scar from the ghastly goring that nearly punctured his heart in Mexico.

He got started at age 6, locking horns with a young cow.

"Ever since I was very small I have had this in my genes," he told AP. "I have practically grown up with bulls."

Juan Belmonte, a bullfighting critic for Canal Sur television in Seville, said Jairo Miguel is largely untested but a promising matador.

"Imagine a class of first-graders. There is always one that stands out. That is Jairo Miguel," he said.

Belmonte said that of the 800-odd bullfighters active in Spain, just a handful took on six of the 500-600-kilogram (1,100-1-,300-pound) beasts at age 16.

One of them was Julian Lopez, who did it in 1998 and is now one of Spain's top bullfighters. He did it in Madrid's storied and very demanding Las Ventas ring, bullfighting's equivalent of Madison Square Garden. He won top honors, being carried out of the ring on fans' shoulders and claiming two trophies—ears from bulls he had just slain.

Jairo Miguel's setting was much less grandiose: a smallish, second-category ring in a pre-season charity event to benefit children with autism.

Jairo Miguel said bullfighting gives him a potent, irresistible rush from a cocktail of fear, adrenaline and applause from the crowd. Still, sometimes he feels sorry for the animals he kills.

"I feel quite bad when the bull has been good, and you see the expression on his face, the innocence. He has given you his bravery, he has collaborated so that you win praise and people stand in ovation," he said.

His mother, Celia Alonso, said she chain-smokes in the days leading up to one of her son's fights, cannot sleep even with tranquilizers and would prefer he do anything but this—"football, computers, whatever."

"But he has chosen this and I have to support him," Alonso said. "All I know is what his eyes say when he struts out into the ring."

This year's Super Bowl ads go goofy and frugal

AP

This image provided by Dr. Pepper Snapple shows part of a television ad featuring Kiss band member Gene Simmons scheduled to air during the 2010 Super Bowl.

NEW YORK (AP)—Game on! Super Bowl ads are returning to their goofy roots.

Men march across a hillside without pants, toys joyride in Vegas and the miserly Mr. Burns from "The Simpsons" loses his fortune but finds happiness. It's a sign that people are feeling better—or at least want to feel better—about the economy, experts say.

The commercials Sunday on advertising's most expensive showcase also aim to appeal to people's focus on value.

The ad line-up includes everything from economy-priced televisions by Vizio to budget cars from Kia. Denny's touts free Grand Slams again, Charles Barkley raps about $5 meal deals at Taco Bell, and the 1985 Chicago Bears' resurrect their "Super Bowl Shuffle" for pre-paid cell phone brand Boost Mobile.

Super Bowl ads are a much anticipated, and usually funny, sideshow. The broadcast is watched as much for its commercials as it is for the game itself. (This year's extravaganza on CBS pits quarterback Drew Brees' New Orleans Saints against Peyton Manning's Indianapolis Colts.)

Last year's line-up had several uncharateristically somber ads. Anheuser-Busch's Clydesdale ads were traditional and sweet, not funny. The more staid tone reflected the nation's mood, still in shock and worry over how deep the financial crisis would get.

To be sure, the commercials aren't all fun and games.

A prominent exception is an expected anti-abortion ad by conservative Christian group Focus on the Family. It stars former Florida Gators quarterback Tim Tebow, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner who helped his team win two college football championships. Tebow's mom was counseled to end her pregnancy but chose not to.

But overall, the laughs are back.

"Six months ago if you were optimistic or happy, it was awkward and people looked and said, 'How insensitive can you be?' " said Allen Adamson, managing director of branding firm Landor Associates in New York. "Now it's socially acceptable not to be sullen and depressed, but within reason. And I think the Super Bowl provides one of those venues where you can still kick back and have a good time."

Advertisers recognize that and are still willing to pay top dollar for the exposure. The 30-second spots sold for a minumum of $2.5 million; some sold for more than $3 million. Last year's game brought in $213 million, according to Kantar Media. CBS has not been claiming record prices, although it has said average prices are better than last year.

They aim to entertain, but marketers also are trying to more directly link products to the content of the ads this year, said Laura Ries, president of marketing consulting firm Ries & Ries outside Atlanta.

"It used to be Super Bowl ads were nothing about what the product was or what it did or if it had any usefulness, and today we are seeing more 'sell' in the ads," she said.

A third-quarter ad by Volkswagen features a twist on the popular "punch buggy" or "slug bug" game, which involves punching a friend when you spot a Volkswagen Beetle. The new version has people hitting each other when they spot any Volkswagen, including the Jetta sedan and Routan minivan. It's the company's first Super Bowl ad in nine years.

The ad is all about the cars, but the time was right to take a funny tone again, said Eric Hirshberg, a CEO and chief creative officer for ad agency Deutsch LA, which created the commercial.

"You can be another thing that reminds people of their problems—or you can be relief," Hirshberg said.

A year after many lost their proverbial shirts, a lack of pants will be an undercurrent in some ads. Job-listings Web site Careerbuilder.com is choosing between fan-submitted ads, and one that involves taking "casual Friday" to a whole new level. An ad for Levi Strauss & Co.'s Dockers shows a dozen or so pantsless men singing about their, ahem, freedom.

The silliness may be a preview of advertising's tone the rest of the year, Adamson said.

"It was such a deep 'down,' " he said of last year's economic woes, "that even the slightest sunlight is drawing people."

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Osubed Anna Delong

Born on August 27, 1922
Passed away in
the grace of our Lord
on January 31, 2010

Her remains will be escorted from CHC Morgue to Tanapag Church at 8:00am, followed by public viewing at 8:30am.

Mass will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by interment services at Tanapag Cemetary.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you
Family

Police: Sheen vehicle stolen, crashed in ravine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Mercedes that Charlie Sheen reported stolen from his Sherman Oaks home was found overturned hundreds of feet down a nearby cliff early Friday, but there's no evidence anyone was in the car when it went into the ravine, police said.

A Bentley was later found off the same road nearby Friday afternoon, and police said three other cars reportedly were broken into in the same area. Police were investigating if the incidents were linked.

Police got an emergency call around 4 a.m. from an OnStar-style alert system that calls emergency officials when there is a problem with the vehicle that may require assistance, Officer Wendy Reyes said. At about the same time, Sheen called police to say his four-door Mercedes-Benz had been stolen, Officer Bruce Borihanh said.

Police and firefighters found the car 300 to 400 feet down a cliff, upside-down in the brushy ravine. They searched the area on foot and with an infrared-equipped helicopter but found nobody in or around the car, Borihanh said.

"They've looked all around the hillside. There's nobody in the car, nobody around (and no) evidence of anybody being around at the moment of impact," he said.

AP

Actor Charlie Sheen's Mercedes is towed out of a ravine after it was found overturned hundreds of feet down a cliff near his home early Friday, Feb. 5, 2010, in the Sherman Oaks area of Los Angeles.

Sheen was not believed to have been in the car because he would have been badly injured in the accident and "I don't know how he would have gotten back up" the cliff, Borihanh said.

"It's being treated as an auto theft investigation," he said.

The car was later hauled back up the hillside and probably would be impounded while the investigation continues, Officer April Harding said.

The actor's publicist, Stan Rosenfield, confirmed that Sheen's car was reported stolen but said he had no details.

"Charlie is fine, and the police are investigating," he wrote in an e-mail.

Yale Galanter, an attorney for his wife, Brooke Sheen, said he could not comment on the crash because it was under investigation.

Several hours after Sheen's car was discovered, the Bentley was found off the cliff a few blocks away by a photographer, officials said. There was nobody in the car, which apparently was stolen from a neighborhood adjoining Sheen's, said police spokesman Richard French.

Other details remained sketchy.

"We're not sure yet if the Bentley was taken by the same individual or individuals who took the other car. We have very few leads," he said.

French said three other cars reportedly were broken into overnight in the same general area. No arrests were immediately made.

Sheen, 42, the star of the CBS comedy "Two and a Half Men," was arrested after a Christmas Day domestic disturbance at his Aspen home. A police officer's arrest affidavit quoted his wife as saying the actor pinned her on a bed while holding a knife to her throat.

Charges to be filed in Michael Jackson's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The circus that swirled around Michael Jackson when he was alive rolled on Friday as the doctor expecting to be accused of involuntary manslaughter in his death planned to stage a surrender at a courthouse but called it off after prosecutors announced charges will be filed next week.

Instead of the promised appearance by Dr. Conrad Murray and his lawyers, a crowd of reporters and photographers gathered outside a branch courthouse only got a drenching from a rainstorm.

Murray, working as Jackson's personal physician during the singer's preparation for comeback concerts, has been under investigation since the 50-year-old pop star died June 25 after being administered the hospital-strength anesthetic propofol and sedatives at his rented mansion to help him sleep.

Murray

It's not clear what would have happened had the cardiologist shown up without a case being filed.

District attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said the events had no bearing on when the case would be filed. She released a terse statement saying prosecutors will be filing a case involving Jackson's death on Monday, but it did not name Murray or specify the charges.

"The main thing is there's some paperwork that needs to be done. We're doing it and (the case) will be filed on Monday," Gibbons said.

The doctor's legal team has said Murray will be charged with involuntary manslaughter.

"We'll make bail, we'll plead not guilty and we'll fight like hell," said lead defense attorney Ed Chernoff.

The strange chain of events—which at one point saw reporters scramble from the courthouse to nearby recreational grounds called Polliwog Park for a news conference that never happened—fueled intense speculation about what was going on behind the scenes.

The developments occurred against a background of reports that police wanted to arrest and handcuff Murray, but that his attorneys were negotiating with the prosecution to avoid that.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Timberlake to get pudding pot from Harvard

CAMBRIDGE, Massachussets (AP)—Multifaceted entertainer Justin Timberlake is coming to Harvard University to be honored as the Hasty Pudding Man of the Year. The Grammy and Emmy award winner will receive his pudding pot from the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe at a roast scheduled for Friday. Hasty Pudding Theatricals said the singer, songwriter, actor and producer was selected because he's "one of pop culture's most influential entertainers." Timberlake is one of the stars of the upcoming movie "The Social Network." The movie expected to be released later this year is about the early days of the Facebook social networking site—set at Harvard. Actress Anne Hathaway was honored as Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year last week.

Aussie banker caught ogling on TV will keep job

SYDNEY (AP)—An Australian banker who was caught on live TV looking at photos of scantily clad model Miranda Kerr will not lose his job, the bank said Friday. Macquarie Bank worker Dave Kiely was at his desk as a colleague was being interviewed about interest rates when the camera showed him apparently opening e-mail attachments of nearly nude photos of the model. The clip became a YouTube hit and other media broadcast it during prime-time Tuesday. Australia-born Kerr, 26, who is engaged to "Pirates of the Caribbean" star Orlando Bloom, had said she hoped Kiely would not lose his job. On Friday, Macquarie said in a statement it had completed an internal review and Kiely would keep his job. "Macquarie and the employee apologize for any offense that may have been caused," the bank said.

Grammy winner Feliciano reports harassing calls

LEHIGH ACRES, Florida (AP)—Grammy-winner Jose Feliciano has told Florida authorities that he and a caregiver have received a series of harassing phone calls telling him to "get out." Feliciano, who composed the popular Christmas song "Feliz Navidad," met with a Lee County Sheriff's deputy Tuesday. According to an incident report, the 64-year-old Feliciano said he had received two calls on his cell phone. The singer says a male with a muffled voice told him he had to "get out." The caregiver also reported receiving similar calls directed toward Feliciano. No arrests have been made, and the investigation is ongoing. The Puerto Rico native was raised in New York City and wrote "Feliz Navidad" in 1970. It is one of the most popular Christmas songs in the world.

Trial set for August in Anna Nicole Smith case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles judge has set an August trial date for two doctors and the lawyer-boyfriend of Anna Nicole Smith, all of whom face drug conspiracy charges. Superior Court Judge David Wesley on Friday scheduled the trial date for Aug. 4. The next hearing is set for April 23. Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, Dr. Khristine Eroshevich and Howard K. Stern have pleaded not guilty to illegally funneling sedatives and opiates to the former Playboy model. They are not charged with causing her death. Smith died of an accidental overdose of at least nine medications in February 2007 at a Florida hotel. In October, Kapoor, Eroshevich and Stern were ordered to stand trial after a three-week preliminary hearing.

Rob Lowe's a traveling Indianapolis Colts fan

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP)—Rob Lowe isn't just another celebrity who scored a Super Bowl ticket. He's a dedicated follower of the Indianapolis Colts who has the mileage to prove it. The actor watched the Colts win their playoff games for their Super Bowl berth, and now he and his family are going to celebrate by going to the championship. Said Lowe: "My son Johnny is an ever bigger Colts fan than I am. So we couldn't fly all the way to Indiana, twice in a row, two weeks in a row, and not come here." Lowe is on the ABC television drama "Brothers & Sisters," but announced last month he was leaving the series. He said his departure is bittersweet. "It's one of the greatest casts I've ever worked with. Everybody loves everybody; I'm gonna miss that a ton. But we're going out on a great note," he said.

Rihanna, Mark Sanchez raise money for charities

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP)—Inspired by a young friend who died from leukemia, singer Rihanna is working to get help for those who suffer from the disease. Rihanna was among the celebrities who submitted a request for funding to Pepsi's Refresh Project, which doles out $20 million to various causes, and was at the foundation's kickoff party Friday night during Super Bowl festivities. The singer is trying to raise money for DKMS, which tries to find bone marrow donors for those suffering from leukemia. "If we win, this would really help us recruit 4,000 individual donors," she said. For Rihanna, the connection is personal. She was active last year in trying to find donors for 6-year-old Jasmina Amena, who died last month. They became friends. "She was a very free, fun spirited little girl, full of energy, always happy, always energetic," Rihanna said. "I always remember she wouldn't sit still. She was always running around, always had a smile on her face."

Wyclef Jean, choir open BET concert for Haiti

MIAMI (AP)—Nearly a month after a devastating earthquake, shock gave way Friday night to a celebration of Haitian culture and pride.

Wyclef Jean opened the "SOS Saving OurSelves—Help for Haiti" concert and telethon with the Haitian Creole phrase for "It's all good."

"I want to welcome you all to Haiti," the singer and producer told the cheering crowd, before continuing to rap in the language of his Caribbean homeland.

His performance began two hours of pleas for donations and pledges of unity with earthquake victims just 700 miles from the AmericanAirlines Arena in Miami.

Haiti didn't seem that far away. Former President Bill Clinton said he took the stage just after stepping off a plane from Haiti.

The Jan. 12 earthquake's lingering affects have been felt even in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood, just north of the arena. Local Haitian-Americans who survived the earthquake or went to assist the relief efforts were highlighted in the audience.

"We're all in the same boat," said singer Trey Songz, making an unintentional pun in a city that is the destination for countless Haitian and Cuban migrants.

Interlocking Haitian and U.S. flags provided the backdrop to Mary J. Blige, Chris Brown, Justin Bieber and Robin Thicke, among other artists. Some brought the red-and-blue Haitian flags on stage with them, and Jean encouraged the sellout crowd to "find something to wave" and join in the dancing.

Images of rubble and dazed survivors briefly filled the big screens, then gave way to footage of aid workers carrying bags of food, nurses caring for small children and Haitians helping each other through the ruins of their country's capital.

"Such a beautiful nation, such a beautiful culture," said Busta Rhymes, leading into his performance of "We Will Stand."

Aware that "donor fatigue" may be setting in, hosts Sean "Diddy" Combs, Queen Latifah and Pharrell urged viewers and concertgoers to remember Haiti's need for investment in its infrastructure, along with food, water, shelter and medicine.

"Even if you've donated before, donate some more," Combs said. "It's a different week."

Before the telethon, "Heroes" actor Jimmy Jean-Louis said Haitians needed to be in charge of their own recovery.

"We have to get Haiti moving by itself, and not just relying on the donors," said Jean-Louis, who is Haitian.

The telethon aired live BET, MTV, VH1 and Centric, and it was simulcast live in Haiti.

Gloria Estefan, tennis player Serena Williams, filmmaker Spike Lee and former boxer Mike Tyson worked phone banks, talking to donors.

Proceeds will go to aid agencies Yele Haiti, CARE, Project Medishare, Children's Safe Drinking Water and The Clinton Foundation.

More than 80 million people tuned in to the Jan. 22 all-star "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon on the major networks, which organizers say raised $66 million.

Alba not flattered by attempt to look like her

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Imitation is not the sincerest form of flattery for Jessica Alba.

The actress said Saturday she's been distressed by Internet reports about a Chinese woman who is having a plastic surgery makeover to look like Alba in hopes of getting her lover back.

"I think you should never have to change yourself like that," Alba said. "If somebody loves you, they'll love you no matter what."

Alba, who is starring in the upcoming film "Valentine's Day," is in town for the Super Bowl; she was at an Audi party Friday with Hilary Swank, Taylor Lautner, Rob Lowe, New York Giant Osi Umenyiora and former New England Patriot Tedy Bruschi. It was one of numerous celebrity soirees attached to the Super Bowl.

But she's not just in town to party—she and hubby Cash Warren will be at Sunday's game. They hired a baby sitter to take care of their infant daughter, Honor, for the big game, but they've been spending the week enjoying Miami with their little girl.

"So far, she likes all the lights. Every time somebody honks or she hears sirens or something, she points everything out," she said. "It's really fun. Lots of screaming, lots of lights, and lots of cars. The most stimulating environment for a 19-month-old."

AP

In this photo taken on Friday, Feb. 5, 2009, a ctress Jessica Alba arrives for the Audi party at the W Hotel during Super Bowl festivities in Miami Beach, Fla.

Venus Williams getting attached to football

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—There's nothing like part-ownership in a pro football team to get you excited about the sport.

Venus Williams says she's becoming a bigger football fan since she and sister Serena became investors in the Miami Dolphins.

"My love of football has really grown. I've really gotten really attached to the sport," Williams said Friday. "I think football players are the ultimate athlete. I think tennis players are too, but we're not risking our lives out there."

Williams joined with Tide to host a rooftop party Friday attended by Terrell Owens, Kelly Rowland, Gabrielle Union, Pete Wentz and sister Serena, among others.

Serena—who just won the Australian Open championship, as well as the doubles title with Venus—said she'd like to change football to see more dancing celebrations in the end zone after touchdowns. She also picked her favorite for the Super Bowl—the Indianapolis Colts.

That might mean good news for the New Orleans Saints, though: "I keep rooting for the losing team, so this could be trouble."

Wentz also was rooting for New Orleans because he loves the city, but admitted that he's not much of a football fan: "I only recently found out as of two nights ago that I like a sport other than soccer, and that's basketball."

Tennis champion and part-owner of the Miami Dolphins Venus Williams appears at the Tide rooftop party in Miami Beach, Friday, Feb. 6, 2010.

AP

Leif Garrett charged with heroin possession in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former 1970s teen idol Leif (LAFE) Garrett has been charged with felony possession of heroin after his arrest in a Los Angeles subway station.

The 48-year-old singer and actor was charged Friday and is free on bond. He is scheduled to be arraigned Feb. 24.

Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore says deputies confronted Garrett at the downtown Metro Red Line station Monday. They say he admitted having black tar heroin in his shoe.

Garrett was also arrested for heroin possession at an LA subway station in 2006.

A phone message left for publicist Barbara Papageorge was not immediately returned, and it was not clear if Garrett had an attorney.

Garrett had a handful of hit songs and was a constant cover boy on teen magazines in the 1970s.

In this booking photo released on Wednesday Feb. 3, 2010 by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department showing former 1970s teen idol Leif Garrett, 48, after he was arrested Monday night after allegedly carrying heroin into a Los Angeles subway station.

AP

Pete Wentz says Fall Out Boy not completely done

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Pete Wentz says talk of Fall Out Boy's demise has been blown out of proportion—but he isn't sure when the rock band will performing together again.

Earlier this week, lead singer Patrick Stump told Spin.com that the group was done after Wentz tweeted that he didn't see a future for the platinum band.

But on Friday, Wentz said band members are just doing things apart and it's not clear where their future lies.

"We just haven't had the time to say anything. All I have been able to do is say, 'Man, I miss doing Fall Out Boy,' and I got to a better place hanging out with my son," the bassist said of his infant son Bronx.

"Now I'm OK if Fall Out Boy comes back or doesn't come back. Like, if it's fun for everyone to do again, we're going to do it ... I just want it to be authentic when we come back," said Wentz, in town for Super Bowl festivities.

AP

In this Dec. 8, 2009 file photo, Pete Wentz attends the launch party for Vevo, a premium music video and entertainment experience, created by Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment and YouTube, in New York.

Cast from 'Jersey Shore' to appear on 'The View'

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC says the house mates from "Jersey Shore" are headed to "The View" for some fist-pumping and outlandish talk.

ABC says the unlikely stars from the hit MTV reality series about a group of 20-something Italian-Americans will be guests on the weekday talk show on Feb. 23.

They're all scheduled to appear: Snooki, JWoww, Vinny, Ronnie, Sammi, DJ Pauly D and, of course, The Situation.

The outlandish, party-hearty cast has been a regular source of chatter among "The View" hosts, who include Barbara Walters, Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar (BAY'-har), Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Sherri Shepherd.

"The View" airs weekdays at 11 a.m. Eastern time.

Story of long-ago abuse causes family new pain

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced when I was 6, and my father remarried when I was 8. My father got custody of my brother and me. A year later, my half-sister was born and that's when my stepmother began physically and mentally abusing me.

My brother told family members about the abuse, but nothing was done. My father didn't believe us kids. The abuse finally ended when my grandparents—my mother's parents—saw the marks on my body and took me to an attorney. My mother got custody of me when I was 12.

My half-sister, "Liz," was only 4 when I left, so we were never close growing up. I'm now in my early 40s. Last summer, while I was visiting family, I went shopping with Liz and her daughter. Tired of all the secrets, I told her the reason I left when she was little. It came as a shock to her because her mother had never abused her.

Now my father and brother are mad at me for telling. My brother even told Liz it wasn't true to "protect" her. Was I wrong for disclosing something that happened long ago? The memories are still fresh after all these years, and doesn't it send a message to protect the abuser?

TIRED OF SECRETS, CORONA, CALIF.

DEAR TIRED OF SECRETS: What your stepmother did was disgraceful, but you were wrong to try to exact revenge through her daughter. All it could do was cause your half-sister pain. As to your brother accusing you of lying after having revealed the truth—that was wrong, too, because it victimized you twice.

DEAR ABBY: I am 25, and have been in a relationship with a wonderful man I'll call "Tom" for a year. Tom is attentive, caring, funny, self-sufficient and comes from a great family. In short, he's everything a woman says she wants.

So why do I still constantly look at other men? I always worry that there's someone better-suited to me and that I'm just settling. Tom is definitely the best man I've ever met, and he would make a wonderful husband and father one day. So, how do I learn to appreciate what I have instead of always seeking something better, which very well may not exist?

WANDERING EYE IN BUFFALO, N.Y.

DEAR WANDERING EYE: Tom may be everything a woman says she wants, but your intuition may be telling you that he isn't what YOU want. Ask yourself what quality Tom is lacking that causes you to constantly look at other men with an eye to trading up, because until you figure that out, you will never be satisfied.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single woman who has recently started a career in local government. In my position, I am often invited to functions with federal, state and local officials. On more than one occasion, "royalty" has attended as well.

At these events, I am often introduced to officials or dignitaries after I am already seated. Should I stand when introduced as the men do, or as a lady, should I remain seated? I have watched other women, including a few old "pros," and the results are split. Can you please tell me what is proper and respectful in these situations?

PROTOCOL-CHALLENGED IN INDIANA

DEAR PROTOCOL-CHALLENGED: Standing when introduced is considered a sign of respect, so when in doubt, stand up.

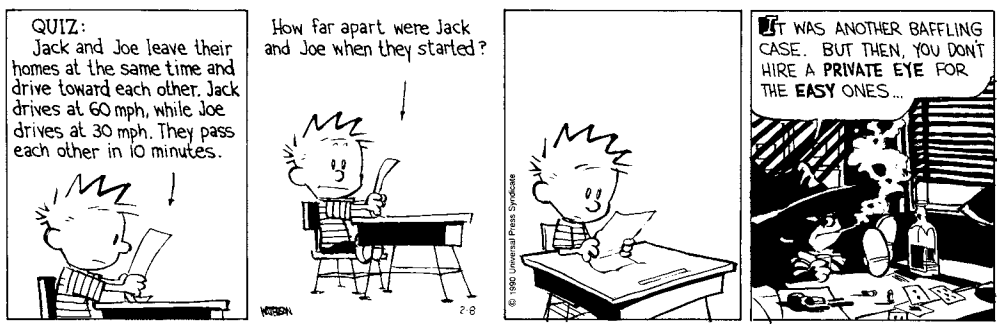
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

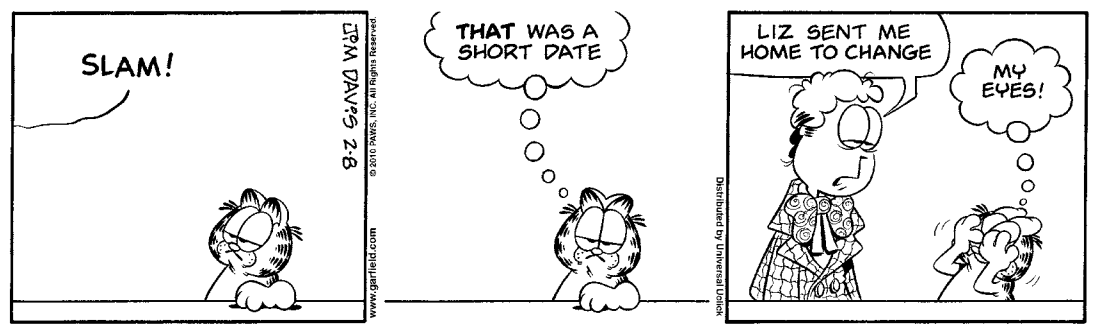
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


QUIZ:
Jack and Joe leave their homes at the same time and drive toward each other. Jack drives at 60 mph, while Joe drives at 30 mph. They pass each other in 10 minutes.
How far apart were Jack and Joe when they started?
2-8
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
IT WAS ANOTHER BAFFLING CASE. BUT THEN, YOU DON'T HIRE A PRIVATE EYE FOR THE EASY ONES...

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I WONDER IF THE ROLLING STONES MAKE THEIR OWN COFFEE.
I BET THEY'RE SO RICH THEY HAVE A BUTLER BRING IT TO THEM ANY TIME THEY WANT.
AND THEY CAN HAVE WHATEVER THEY WANT: LATTES, AU LAITS, DARK ROASTS, LEMON RINDS...
HEY, HONEY, I SHOULD GET A GUITAR, RIGHT?
2-8
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DID YOU MAIL ANY VALENTINE'S CARDS THIS YEAR?
NO. I USED E-MAIL.
I SENT A PERSONAL VALENTINE'S MESSAGE TO EVERY GIRL I KNOW.
THAT MUST HAVE TAKEN A LONG TIME.
TWO MINUTES TO WRITE IT AND ONE SECOND TO HIT "SEND ALL."
© 2010 Glenn McCoy Dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

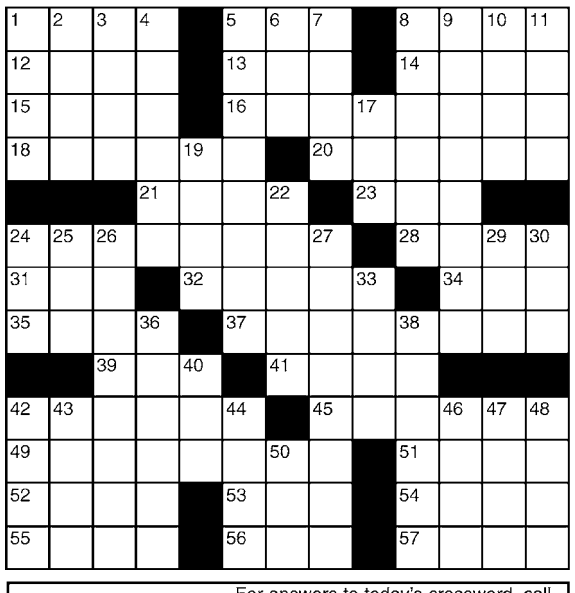
ACROSS
1 Legs (Sl.)
5 Gratuity
8 Competent
12 Six-sided state
13 Singer Sumac
14 Close up tight
15 Optimistic
16 "War of the Worlds" invaders
18 Maintenance
20 Main course
21 Health resorts
23 "My country, — of thee"
24 Drinks garnished with olives
28 Distort
31 "Rocks"
32 Points
34 Eisenhower nickname
35 Skillful
37 Strict disciplinarian
39 Historic time
41 Tale-teller
42 Arose
45 Cancer or Capricorn
49 Home-run champ Tino
51 Houston acronym
52 Colorful fish
53 "Hail, Caesar!"
54 "— have to do"
55 Guys' partners
56 Series of skirmishes
57 Restaurant VIP

DOWN
1 Mentor
2 On
3 Lone Ranger trademark
4 Least gregarious
5 Eardrum
6 "— little teapot, ..."
7 Rid of rind
8 Without changes
9 Rug in old-style baby photos
10 Memory —
11 Differently
17 Potent stick
19 Grand story
22 Rope fiber
24 Central
25 Expert
26 Source of a second opinion
27 White wine + soda water
29 — out a living
30 Drenched
33 Celebrity
36 "We hold these — to be ..."
38 Funny, in a way
40 Blackbird
42 Urban pollutant
43 One of the Three Bears
44 Nibble away (on)
46 Walkway
47 Gilligan's home
48 Young bovine
50 A Gabor sister

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	N	E	R	V	E	■	E	G	R	E	S	S
J	O	V	I	A	L	■	R	E	O	P	E	N
A	G	E	O	L	D	■	I	N	D	I	G	O
M	O	S	T	■	O	V	E	R	■	D	O	W
■	■	■	S	I	R	E	■	E	S	E	■	■
A	P	E	■	B	A	N	S	■	A	M	B	O
S	E	X	A	N	D	T	H	E	C	I	T	Y
S	T	E	W	■	O	N	E	S	■	C	U	L
■	■	R	N	A	■	O	R	S	O	■	■	■
S	E	C	■	F	U	R	L	■	A	C	N	E
C	R	I	S	I	S	■	O	U	T	L	A	W
A	S	S	U	R	E	■	C	R	E	A	S	E
B	E	E	P	E	R	■	K	I	N	D	A	■

Saturday's answer 2-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Seth Green, 36; Mary Steenburgen, 57; Robert Klein, 68; Ted Koppel, 70

Happy Birthday: The more you do to enhance your skills, the greater your ability to maneuver yourself into a better social and professional position. Don't bend to pressure when it comes to your financial situation. An unusual direction may appear out of character but it will turn out well for you. Your numbers are 4, 6, 14, 19, 25, 33, 37

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A more youthful look will help you feel energetic and able to conquer whatever you face. You can take care of emotional issues by offering suggestions. Help will come from a very unusual source. Ignore what others say. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep thoughts to yourself instead of provoking an argument with someone who will never see things your way. A money venture will be tempting. Think twice before you make a commitment. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Confusion will set in if you take on too much. You have to stay focused and refuse to let emotional matters stand in your way. Offering help impulsively will turn into a costly situation. Consider what is doable before you get started. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't stand still when you should be taking action and making a point. Put your fears behind you and step into whatever situation faces you with determination and the intent to win. Opportunities are present, so ready to reach your goals. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Good things are heading your way. An offer you cannot refuse is likely to surface. You will meet someone special if you get involved in a social activity or networking event. Your knowledge and experience will lead to an interesting new position. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Sort through any discrepancies you face and refrain from making any rash decisions. There's a potential they will backfire and cost you emotionally and financially. Concentrate on your own likes and needs. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Focus on creative endeavors and networking with people who have similar interests. Love and romance are in the stars and should be your main concern during the evening hours. Mingle, if you are single or wine and dine the one you love, if you are in a relationship. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Check out your personal situation carefully and you will find ways to make improvements. Deception is apparent and can lead to emotional responses that will disrupt your home and family. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your emotions will get the better of you, causing costly, impulsive action. Do something creative or that will help to enhance your position within your community. An offer you cannot refuse is in the works. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Suspicion will mount, creating a problem with someone you have known for a long time. The more you divulge, the greater the response and help you will receive. An interesting conversation will lead to a couple of unexpected but beneficial changes. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): By putting forth your best effort you will impress those who don't know you well and please the ones who do. An interesting proposition is heading your way. Be ready to make a move. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stand your ground. There is no reason why you should bend to what someone else wants if it goes against everything you have worked so hard to achieve. Control the situation intelligently. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are industrious and a team player, intent on winning. You have innovative ideas and the courage to follow your own path. You are not bound by tradition.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1	7		2		
	6	3					7	
7		8		5		4	1	
			8		7			1
5		7				6		8
8			2		5			
	4	5		1		3		7
	8					5	9	
		9		8	6			

Difficulty Level ★ 2/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	1	6	9	8	4	5	2
6	5	8	4	1	2	3	9	7
2	9	4	7	5	3	8	6	1
5	4	7	1	2	6	9	8	3
9	8	2	3	4	5	7	1	6
1	6	3	8	7	9	2	4	5
8	7	5	2	6	4	1	3	9
3	1	9	5	8	7	6	2	4
4	2	6	9	3	1	5	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

APACHE HELICOPTERS **Solution: 8 letters**

N	A	T	I	V	E	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	S
O	A	C	C	U	R	A	T	E	Y	L	D	A	E	D
S	A	T	S	E	T	A	T	S	D	E	T	I	N	U
E	E	O	S	E	N	I	G	N	E	N	I	W	T	R
M	L	T	P	I	V	G	N	I	Y	L	F	Y	N	A
O	B	F	I	E	N	I	(F)	E	E	I	C	G	I	B
U	A	A	L	S	R	(A)	T	X	G	N	U	N	G	I
N	R	R	O	O	(S)	A	H	H	E	N	R	W	H	L
T	E	C	T	(T)	G	A	T	G	F	O	O	O	T	I
K	V	R	N	I	U	I	R	I	F	I	S	D	V	T
C	U	I	V	S	N	E	R	I	O	A	N	T	I	Y
A	E	A	T	G	M	E	L	L	I	N	E	U	S	E
T	N	E	M	E	G	A	G	N	E	C	S	H	I	F
T	A	S	R	O	C	K	E	T	P	O	D	S	O	A
A	M	A	R	G	O	R	P	W	E	A	P	O	N	S

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Accurate, Afghanistan, Aircraft, Attack, California, Deadly, Durability, Emergency, Engagement, Exhaust, Fast, Fighting, Flying, Gunfire, Line, Maneuverable, Native Americans, Navigate, Night Vision, Nose Mount, Operations, Pilot, Program, Rocket Pods, Safe, Sensor, Shut Down, Site, Twin Engines, United States, Weapons

Last Saturday's Answer: Paradise

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff,	)	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0065**
vs.	)	
STEVE K. MESNGON and JUDY ANN M. MESNGON, Defendants.	)	**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot No. 330 R 108, containing an area of 870 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 03, dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-859, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 1st, March, 2010, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, January 26, 2010.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Commonwealth Cancer Association AWARENESS • EDUCATION • HOPE

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is the community-based cancer support organization for the Northern Mariana Islands dedicated to eliminating cancer and saving lives by providing Advocacy, Awareness, Education, Services and HOPE for all its constituents.

CCA is a non-profit organization managed by a 7 member Board of Directors who represents the diversity of the CNMI. CCA's operational funding is fully supported by contributions from corporations, families and individuals.

Position Description: Program Manager
As a Program Manager you will serve as an advocate for the CCA, supporting the CCA's mission and helping the organization better communicate who we are and what we do for the people who need us most. Eligible candidates need qualifications enabling them to fulfill the following key responsibilities:

- Manage budget and comply with stringent guidelines for program services offered to cancer patients and constituents
- Coordinate and collaborate with the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands CNMI Representative and the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (CCCP) and effectively collaborate with the Program Manager to advocate and further our mission goals
- Develop, manage and grow revenue goals through multiple fundraising events and collateral sales
- Assist the Event Chairperson(s) and participate in efficiently carrying out our signature fundraising event, the "Marianas March Against Cancer", by attending Organization Committee and Team Captain meetings
- Mobilize and coordinate a CNMI community-wide volunteer working committee to implement the CNMI CCCP
- Develop and cultivate community partnerships/relationships and participate in appropriate coalitions
- Prepare/disseminate reports and publications such as an annual report, weekly performance report, bulletins, brochures, flyers, and various other promotional and educational cancer-related materials
- Assertively promote CCA Advocacy, initiatives, education and services to schools, worksites and community leaders to effectively build broad based support for our mission
- Seek monetary and in-kind donations from our business, community, private/public grants and endowments through direct solicitation, grant application and or bartering of goods and services
- Capture and track constituents served from our projects and services
- Comply and demonstrate ability to work within established budgets
- Effectively arrange monthly Board meetings and other work as assigned by the President or his/her designee
- Plan ahead and always anticipate what is wanted and needed and be out in front in seeing that we meet our goals and responsibilities to the community.

Qualifications and Position Requirements:

- AA Degree and/or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Two years experience in sales, event management, customer service or volunteer management
- Demonstrated project management skills with high attention to detail and ability to multi task and delegate
- Demonstrated ability to inspire volunteers
- Strong relationship building skills
- Possess high energy, positive attitude
- Ability to maintain professional demeanor
- Must be a team player who can effectively work and interact with volunteers and the public
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated presentation skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite more specifically MS Publisher, Adobe Photoshop or comparable software , database and spreadsheet management, e-mail software and internet browsers
- Travel to Rota, Tinian, regional and Stateside may be required and will be funded by CCA as Contracting Party
- Evening and weekend work required

Condition of Employment and Remuneration:

- Independent Contract Agreement - At Will, Exempt Contract Employment
- Contract remuneration $25,000.00 to $32,000.00 per annum depending on qualifications and experience.
- This position requires that you have a 2010 CNMI Business License
- Please submit cover letter and resume by the deadline of February 15, 2010 to: CCA Vice President Bud White, Chairman Selection Committee, at one of the following addresses: bud@whitecoconut.com, FAX: 322-9445 or P.O. Box 5525 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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Opening Date:	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	**Closing Date:**	Until Filled		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-006	Deputy Director for Water Wastewater	[One Position]	Negotiable; Ungraded	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan
Opening Date:	Friday, January 28, 2010	**Closing Date:**	Friday, February 11, 2010		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-0014	Water Wastewater Operations Engineer	[One Position]	$55,000-$65.000	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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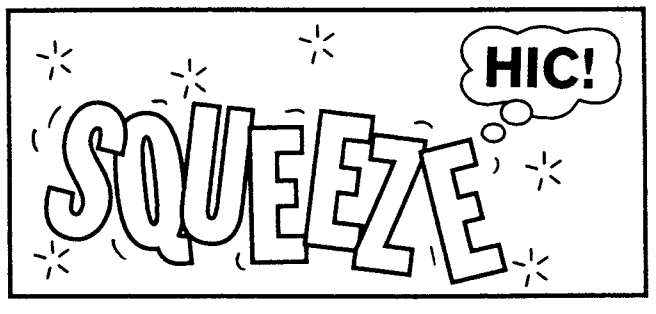

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Find today's solution in this section

Brees takes leadership role beyond NFL

MIAMI (AP)—By helping New Orleans' renaissance following Hurricane Katrina through wide-ranging charity work and his constant promotion of the region's cultural assets, Saints quarterback Drew Brees is clearly one of the city's adopted sons.

Indeed, he is so popular that candidates in Saturday's mayoral election joked during the campaign that they would drop out of the race if Brees decided to run.

Winning Sunday's Super Bowl against the Indianapolis Colts would only enhance his status.

That's saying a lot because the First Family of Football—the Mannings—live there, too, and are all but regarded as royalty in the Big Easy.

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning isn't just an opponent, he's practically a neighbor.

"My parents have gotten to know Drew and his family," Manning said. "I just have an appreciation for guys that play for the New Orleans Saints, that live there in the offseason, that commit to the city year-round as opposed to just playing there."

Manning's parents, Archie and Olivia, did all of that, quarterbacking for the Saints and putting down roots in the city.

"Drew has committed his efforts in the philanthropy part of it to the city, to the rebuilding of the city. As a native of New Orleans, I certainly appreciate that," Manning continued.

Brees, along with wife Brittany and 1-year-old son, Baylen, are well on their way to achieving similar Manning status.

Brees often compares the resurgence of his career after a serious shoulder injury at the end of the 2005 season—when only the Saints believed he'd recover—to the recovery of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit that same year.

AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) leads a line of players including Mark Brunell (11), Lance Moore (16) and Devery Henderson (19) in a stretching exercise during football practice at Sun Life Stadium on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010 in Miami.

When he first came to New Orleans in the spring of 2006, much of the area was still a wreck. And even though hospitals, supermarkets and basic services were still disrupted, that didn't stop him from calling New Orleans home.

He bought and renovated a century-old house near the Mannings in the historic Uptown neighborhood and, along with Brittany, started leading efforts to rebuild schools, playgrounds and athletic fields.

"I've embraced the community of New Orleans just because it is a special place, and they've embraced me and my wife in a way that I can't even describe," Brees said. "There is nothing more that I want for them than a championship."

At 6 feet (1.83 meters), Brees is a few inches (centimeters) shorter than the prototypical quarterback. He looks more like a regular guy than a world-class athlete and has been underestimated for much of his athletic career. Although he grew up in Texas, the only universities to recruit him seriously were Kentucky and Purdue. Brees chose the latter, but despite leading Purdue to its first Rose Bowl in more than three decades and becoming a Heisman Trophy finalist, most NFL teams passed on him before the San Diego Chargers took him with its second-round draft pick in 2001.

In the past four years since nearly everyone wrote him off, Brees has passed for 18,298 yards, the most of any quarterback during that span. In 2008, his 5,069 yards passing made him only the second quarterback to throw for more than 5,000 in a season and left him 16 yards short of breaking Dan Marino's 1984 all-time NFL single-season record.

He has twice led the Saints to an NFC Championship game and now to the Super Bowl.

His professional triumphs this season, however, have been offset by a personal blow.

His mother, Mina, an attorney from Austin, died of a prescription drug overdose last summer and her death was later ruled a suicide. The two had been estranged, and Brees has said he prefers to keep his feelings about his mother private.

"He's a real strong person and that's what makes him somewhat unique," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "I lost my mother in 2002 when I was (an assistant coach) in New York. Sometimes the season and the league can rob you of something because of how consuming it is. ... That's some of the uniqueness in Drew Brees that he was able to put that (grieving) somewhere, grieve and still continue with all of the responsibilities that he had."

Brees threw for 4,388 yards and a league-leading 34 touchdowns in 15 games this season, sitting out the last one of the regular-season because New Orleans had already wrapped up the NFC's top playoff seed.

Peyton's place: Star QB pitches for Super Bowl win

MIAMI (AP)—Peyton Manning was stuck in the back seat of the family car. His terrible T-ball team had lost again.

The coach, keenly aware of how important it was to pump up morale no matter what, always told his tender young charges their games ended in a tie.

"Dad," Archie Manning, sitting up front, heard his son say, "the coach must think we're pretty stupid."

By the time he was 6 or 7, young Manning fully appreciated the difference between winning, losing—and tying.

Eventually that drive and determination led him to win an NFL championship Super Bowl and become the league's best quarterback. On Sunday, the middle boy of football's First Family will try to win another and transform the Super Bowl into Peyton's Place.

He'll strap on his helmet, the one with the famed blue horseshoe, and lead the Indianapolis Colts against the New Orleans Saints. A victory would do more than cement a legacy that's been a lifetime in the making.

"If he wins the Super Bowl, you have to initiate a discussion of whether he's the greatest player to ever play the game," former star QB Joe Theismann said. "Not just the greatest quarterback, but the greatest player."

The who's-the-best question fires up fans in all sports. Babe Ruth or Willie Mays? Tiger Woods or Jack Nicklaus? Muhammad Ali or Rocky Marciano?

There are plenty of contenders for top quarterback.

Tom Brady, Joe Montana and John Elway won multiple Super Bowls. Johnny Unitas and Otto Graham were champs. Slingin' Sammy Baugh was so good in the 1930s and '40s, he was an ace passer, punter and defensive back. Throw Dan Marino and Brett Favre into that mix.

"I don't like to say greatest because it's too hard to compare eras," said Mike Ditka, a Hall of Fame player who later won a Super Bowl coaching Da Bears. "You can judge on a whole lot of categories, but I like leadership. Who do you want in that foxhole with you?

"That's what makes Manning stand out. He runs that whole offense. No other quarterback does that in this day and age," he said.

On 31 teams, a coach signals in the plays. On the Colts, Manning calls them. He sees it as "controlled chaos"—a no-huddle set where he decides run or pass, puts his teammates in position and makes adjustments at the line.

At 33, he is already a four-time Most Valuable Player. Famous for watching film of his opponents, Manning hardly views himself as a finished product.

"You are always learning different situations. Two-minute drills, third-and-1s, red zone," he said.

That doesn't only apply to football.

If you flipped on the TV this week, he was everywhere. Poking fun at his gawky side in ads, creating a national catch phrase with "Cut that meat!" Looking regal in pads, by far the biggest attraction in America's biggest game.

His talent in front of the TV camera came instantly. Somewhere Peyton the Passer morphed into Peyton the Pitchman.

About six years ago, Manning embraced the idea of making himself the butt of jokes in a series of MasterCard commercials. He cheered on a deli slicer, asked a grocery worker to sign a melon, gave a pep talk to piano movers.

Joyce King Thomas, chief creative officer for the McCann Erickson agency, helped produce the wildly popular "fan of the fans" campaign. "In the beginning, you're thinking, 'I hope this works,'" she said. "We learned quickly that, oh my goodness, he was amazing at this.

"He wanted to participate in it, he'd make suggestions. On some of the scripts, he'd say, 'I wouldn't say it quite like that,'" she said.

One spot closes with Manning, totally oblivious to the strange looks he's drawing, high-fiving an accountant and then blurting out, "Never gonna wash this hand!"

"That was his. He said it had happened to him," Thomas said.

A few months after he was MVP of the Colts' Super Bowl win in 2007, Manning hosted "Saturday Night Live." His mock United Way commercial is still a hit on YouTube. And word is he does wicked Elvis impersonation.

"Peyton's got a good sense of humor, but he also can be very serious. I think he's kind of surprised us a bit, too, in the commercials," said his dad, the longtime quarterback for the Saints. "Back when he did 'Saturday Night Live' and so forth, that was really fun to watch."

The Mannings will be in Miami on Sunday to cheer on Peyton. As for this Super Bowl elevating his spot in history, Peyton Manning said, "I certainly am not looking at the game that way."

But Colts receiver Reggie Wayne put it this way: "I'll let you all decide if he's the best and what his legacy is. But I guarantee you if we win Sunday, it would make it a lot easier for the critics to say who is."

Leave it to Eli Manning, the New York Giants' quarterback and MVP of the 2008 Super Bowl, to place his big bro at the top.

"Yeah, he's getting close. At this point, he's kind of considered an old-timer when it comes to age in the NFL, but he keeps getting better every year," he said. "I don't get jealous. He sets the standard for what I want to become, where I want to raise my level of play to."

The only real rub between them came when they were kids. Eli ended a particularly rugged game of 1-on-1 backyard basketball by dunking over Peyton, and the boys hardly spoke to each other for days. Archie played peacemaker; he took down the hoop at their New Orleans home.

"He's a good big brother," Eli said. "He's five years older than me, so he'd give you a wedgie or shake your pants down when you're in front of a bunch of friends, something like that. But not in a long time."

Stricker takes big lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steve Stricker had quite the Hollywood experience during a night out from the Northern Trust Open.

He went to a Lakers game Friday and spent more time watching the stars than players. Denzel Washington in the parking lot. Jack Nicholson courtside, along with George Lopez and one of the Kardashian sisters (he looked it up on the Internet—it was Khloe).

In unexpected sunshine Saturday afternoon at Riviera, Stricker was the star of his own show.

With an impeccable display of wedges and putting during a pivotal stretch in the middle of his round, Stricker turned a one-shot deficit into a five-shot lead in the Northern Trust Open before darkness halted the third round as he faced a 30-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole.

"I did a lot of good things," said Stricker, who was at 14-under par.

The clubhouse leaders were Luke Donald, who shot a bogey-free 66, and J.B. Holmes, who made one final birdie to finish his 67. They were at 9-under 204, tied with Andres Romero, who was 9 under and in the final group with Stricker.

Stricker wasn't sure how big his lead had grown, nor did he care. All that mattered was returning to Riviera at 7 a.m. Sunday to finish off the third round, and trying to keep hitting the shots that put him in this position.

Northern Trust Open

The tournament caught a huge break with the weather. A storm system off the California coast managed to dodge Riviera in the afternoon, leaving mostly sunny conditions and allowing for enough play that the tournament is expected to end Sunday.

"I've got to prepare myself for a long day, and it's going to be tough," Stricker said.

He was the runner-up last year at Riviera, and a victory Sunday would be enough to put him at No. 2 in the world if Phil Mickelson does not finish in the top five. Mickelson shot a 71 and was 10 shots behind.

George McNeill had a 66 and was at 8 under, along with Dustin Johnson, who finished his second round Saturday morning by chipping in for birdie on the 18th hole for a one-shot lead.

A day after some players couldn't reach the 18th green with a 3-wood, Johnson flew a 9-iron over the green and deep into the soggy turf. After a free drop, he chipped in for birdie to complete a 67 and take a one-shot lead.

But that didn't last long.

Johnson hooked his tee shot into the deep grass well left of the third fairway and never found it. He had to return to the tee to play his third shot, scrambled for a double bogey and it rattled him. He missed a 6-foot par putt on the fourth, had to scramble for pars, then missed a 5-foot par putt on the ninth to fall farther behind.

Stricker, meanwhile, was practically flawless. During a seven-hole stretch in the middle of his round, Stricker gave himself birdie chances inside 15 feet on six holes.

"It was a key stretch," Stricker said. "Stress-less would be the word. Is that a word?"

He made from 15 feet on the sixth and from just inside 10 feet on the eighth, after hitting into the ditch splitting the fairways. The exception came on the ninth, where Stricker drove into the left bunker and faced such a steep lip that he could only blast out to the fairway. From 123 yards, his wedge settled 8 feet away and he made it for par.

Then, he showed remarkable patience on the most intriguing hole at Riviera, the 298-yard 10th. There were three groups waiting, and while killing the time, Stricker was asked how he likes to play the hole. This was right after Justin Rose, in the group ahead, hit driver to a perfect opening just short of the green.

"I hit hybrid as far left as I can," Stricker said. "See where Justin hit it? That's perfect. I guess that's why some guys like to hit driver here. But if you miss it any direction, you're going to have problems."

Moments later, Stricker hit hybrid to the left side of the fairway, giving him an open at the full length of the diagonal green. From there, he hit a 53-degree wedge that covered the flag and spun slightly back to inches a way.

It was a textbook birdie on a tricky little hole.

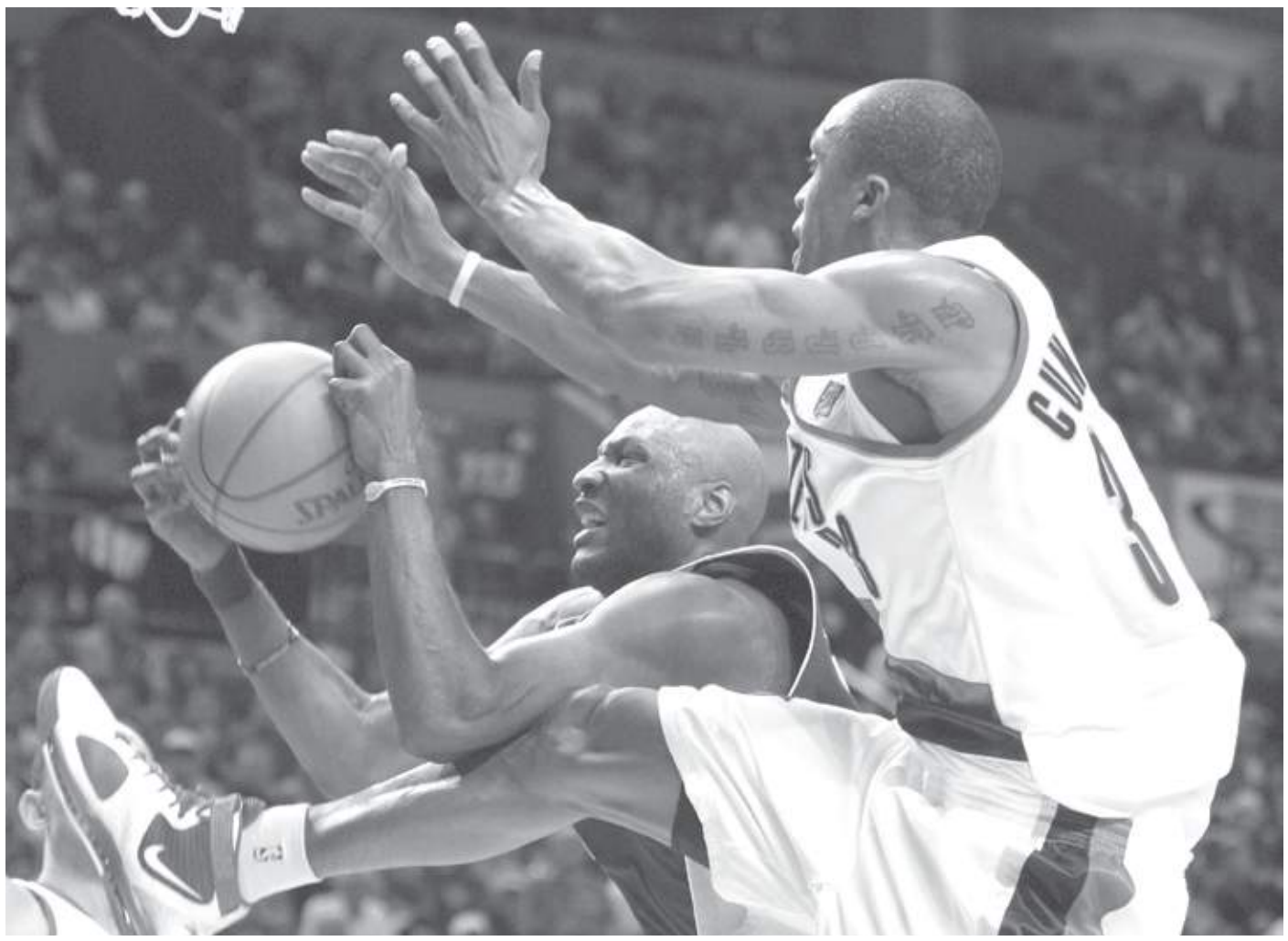
Then again, most of his round turned into an exhibition of keeping the ball in play, hitting his irons where he was looking and rarely flirting with danger while seizing command of the tournament.

Trying to become the first player to win three straight years at Riviera, Mickelson charged up his gallery by holing a 20-foot eagle putt to start his third round. But he missed three straight birdie chances inside 15 feet, dumped a wedge from behind the 10th green into a bunker for a bogey and couldn't keep pace.

The best part for Donald was finishing, meaning extra sleep Saturday night. He also likes his position, although it is daunting with a player of Stricker's caliber five shots clear.

"I would have thought I'd need to shoot something very low tomorrow to have any chance," Donald said. "I'll be trying to play the course more than anything, and hopefully post a low number and see if it's good enough. But if Steve plays nicely, it's sort of in his hands."

No Bryant, no problem for Lakers



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom pulls down a rebound from Portland Trail Blazers Dante Cunningham (33) in the second half during their NBA basketball game Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, in Portland, Ore.

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)—Lamar Odom replaced an injured Kobe Bryant and matched his career high with 22 rebounds, as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Portland Trail Blazers 99-82 in the NBA on Saturday.

Bryant sat out with a sore left ankle, ending the 12-time All-Star's run of 235 straight games.

Odom also scored 10 points as the Lakers pulled away in the fourth quarter, leading by as many as 19 points, en route to ending a nine-game losing streak at the Rose Garden.

Portland was again without All-Star guard Brandon Roy, who will miss the next three games and the All-Star with a hamstring injury.

Jazz 116, Nuggets 106

In Salt Lake City, Utah made it eight straight wins to down Denver.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 22 points and Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 13 rebounds in his return to the lineup.

The Jazz pulled within two games of the Nuggets in the Northwest Division and avoided a four-game sweep by Denver.

Even without Carmelo Anthony and Chauncey Billups, the Nuggets were able to cut a 17-point deficit to three early in the fourth quarter before Utah put the game away.

Ty Lawson led Denver with 25 points.

Cavaliers 113, Knicks 106

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 47 points, including 24 straight for Cleveland in the first half, as Cleveland held off New York and notched its 11th straight victory.

James set a franchise record with 35 points in the first half thanks to his remarkable streak. He finished one point shy of his season high while adding eight rebounds and eight assists.

He needed just 5:29 to score 24 straight—16 in a row to end the first quarter and eight straight to start the second. He closed the first quarter with four 3-pointers in the final two minutes.

Nate Robinson, in his second start at point guard this season, had 26 points for New York.

Hornets 104, Bobcats 99

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Darren Collison scored a career-high 24 points filling in for Chris Paul as New Orleans downed Charlotte.

In the first regular-season meeting since the July trade that sent Emeka Okafor to New Orleans for Tyson Chandler, the Hornets rallied from a 10-point halftime deficit to snap a three-game losing streak since Paul was sidelined with a knee injury. Okafor, the Bobcats' first draft pick, had 16 points and seven rebounds.

David West added 21 points for New Orleans.

Charlotte slipped to its third straight defeat despite 26 points from Stephen Jackson.

Spurs 98, Clippers 81

In Los Angeles, San Antonio breezed to victory against a Los Angeles team adjusting to life under an interim coach.

George Hill scored all of his 22 points in the first three quarters to set up the Spurs victory.

Chris Kaman had 21 points in the Clippers' first game since Mike Dunleavy resigned as coach and was replaced on an interim basis by Kim Hughes.

Bulls 95, Heat 91

In Chicago, the hosts won their first game in four by edging Miami.

Luol Deng scored 25 points and Derrick Rose added 24 for the Bulls, who won despite missing the injured Joakim Noah and suspended Tyrus Thomas.

Jermaine O'Neal tied season highs with 24 points and 16 rebounds but the Heat lost for the seventh time in eight games.

76ers 102, Rockets 95

In Houston, Philadelphia came from 13 points down to beat Houston and extend its winning run to a season-best four games.

Reserve Thaddeus Young scored 17 points and Willie Green added 15 for the 76ers.

Aaron Brooks scored 34 points for Houston, which controlled much of the game before a late Sixers surge that saw the visitors take the lead with less than five minutes left.

Thunder 104, Warriors 95

In Oakland, California, Oklahoma City matched their season best with a fifth consecutive win, beating Golden State.

Kevin Durant scored 29 points and Russell Westbrook added 21, 10 assists, a career-high eight steals and seven rebounds.

Corey Maggette scored 24 points to lead the Warriors, who have lost eight straight.

Bucks 93, Pacers 81

In Milwaukee, Andrew Bogut bounced back from a migraine to score 21 points to lead Milwaukee past Indiana.

A night after departing in the first quarter against New York due to a severe headache, Bogut dominated inside, hitting 9 of 15 shots and grabbing eight rebounds as the Bucks won for the fifth time in six games.

Luc Mbah a Moute scored 18 for Milwaukee.

T.J. Ford got a season-high 20 points to lead the Pacers, who were within six in the fourth quarter.

Timberwolves 109, Grizzlies 102

In Minneapolis, Al Jefferson rallied Minnesota to its season-high fourth straight victory by scoring 16 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter.

Jefferson was quiet all night until the Grizzlies stretched their lead to seven points with 8 minutes left. Jefferson found his touch, scoring 12 straight and giving the Timberwolves the final push they needed to avoid their first season sweep by the Grizzlies.

Jefferson went 8 for 8 from the field in the fourth from all over the floor.

Rudy Gay finished with 27 points for Memphis.

Pistons 99, Nets 92

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Detroit ended a run of five straight home losses by downing hapless New Jersey.

Jonas Jerebko scored 20 points on 9-for-9 shooting and Richard Hamilton added 17 points for the Pistons.

The Nets lost their 14th straight on the road and are 1-26 away from home this season.

NONI

From Page 28

to an injury.

Estolas injured his left knee when Pagarao fell down on him in the paint after the latter drew an offensive foul from Jun Pantaleon. Estolas sat on the bench after scoring 12 points and with Saipan Fresh behind, 42-35, 2:54 to go in the first half.

Saipan Fresh had another casualty in William Opone, who along with Noni's Banjo Basila, were thrown out of the game due to second motions, only a few seconds after Estolas got injured.

Opone's wayward elbow after a rebound play hit Pantaleon. When the offensive foul was charged against him, an upset Opone shoved the ball to Basila, who then pushed the former. Cooler heads stepped in and the two players were penalized.

Noni was in front by only five at halftime, 48-43, but padded the lead to double digits in the early goings of the third quarter, forcing Saipan Fresh coach Marvin Deocares to gamble on the limping Estolas. Estolas returned to the game midway in the third and hit two triples, but could not buckle down on defense and drive in the paint like he used to in the first quarter.

With 5:32 left in Game 2 and Noni in front, 94-78, Deocares seemed ready to wave the white flag when he pulled Estolas out of the court. However, Pagarao, Villacrusis, Sanciangco, Gil Gapor, and Jorge De Guzman refused to give up and threatened to foil Noni's party.

Noni pulled away in the fourth with Sonny Lerio's guns smoking in the payoff canto. Lerio made 12 points in the fourth and had two triples, scoring a total of 23 markers off the bench. Tamayo and Bernardo also tallied 20-plus points, posting 22 and 21, respectively.

Loyola forces Game 3

Trophies in the masters division of the PILCOWA caging had to be saved for Tuesday after University of Loyola prevailed in Game 2, 91-83, to force a deciding Game 3.

After collapsing in Game 1, Loyola made sure there will be no second time and a series sweep when it withstood Ebisuya's repeated comeback bids.

Trailing by as much as 16 in the fourth canto, five straight points from Opone moved Ebisuya within seven, 76-83, 1:14 to go in that period.

However, back-to-back layups from Melvin Villarin ended Ebisuya's chances to steal Game 2 and wrap up the series. Villarin, who did not play in Game 1 due to a knee injury, contributed 15 points in his first game in the series.

He and Ed Cosino gave Loyola the needed lift against Ebisuya's frontliners. Cosino had a team-high 21 points, consistently contributing on offense, as he paced himself well this time. Cosino lost steam in the fourth quarter of Game 1, as Loyola had only Jimmy Salazar to replace the former. In Game 2, besides Villarin, Mechor Puri also suited up for Loyola, giving Cosino needed rests.

Playing coach Elmer Pineda, who fouled out early in the fourth quarter of Game 1, saved his fouls in Game 2 to provide Loyola leadership. Pineda had to assert his authority at the break when Loyola muffed a 10-point lead that Ferdie de la Torre helped build. De la Torre scored 10 of his 18 points in the second quarter, which ended with Loyola in front by only four, 41-37.

At halftime, Pineda told his teammates not to resort to a blame game and focus on the task ahead, which is to win Game 2.

At the start of the second half, Pineda's wards responded with a quick 7-0 run to bring the lead back to double digits. The third quarter ended with Loyola in front, 64-48, but Ebisuya sliced it to six, 61-66, on a 13-3 run, 6:33 to go in the fourth quarter.

A rally halting triple from Ariel Jinang from the right baseline put order back into Loyola's offense and a basket each from Cosino and Jun Tabora widened the gap anew, 73-61, going into the last five minutes of play.

Opone, who scored a game-high 27 points, repeatedly tried to bring Ebisuya back into the game, but Villarin was there to deny him.

Opone had to carry the cudgels for Ebisuya, as the team missed Francis Rebuyon's heroics in the series opener. Rebuyon, who made 26 markers in Game 1, was scoreless in the first three quarters of Game 2 and although he nailed 12 in the fourth, he had to bleed for his points.

Ebisuya had a few more missing links in Game 2. Jun Abedes, who logged 12 in Game 1, was scoreless in Game 2. Edwin Santos added 18, but tallied only two in the fourth quarter, while Ernie Moises fired 14, but could not hit baskets in streaks.

The deciding Game 3 will be played tomorrow.

Masters

University of Loyola 91 – Cosino 21, de la Torre 16, Villarin 15, Tabora 14, Abuy 10, Jinang 5, Pineda 5, Puri 4, Manalili 2.

Ebisuya 83 – Opone 27, Santos 18, Moises 14, Rebuyon 12, Tengco 4, Casabuena 4, Morales 3, Peleno 2, Olivos 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-21, 41-37, 64-48, 91-83.

Open

Noni Saipan 108 – Lerio 23, Tamayo 22, Bernardo 21, Abuel 16, De Vero 11, Demapan 9, Pantaleon 3, Aquino 3, Basila 2.

Saipan Fresh 103 – Pagarao 29, Sanciangco 20, Estolas 18, Gapor, De Guzman 8, Villacrusis 7, Factor 3, Rebuyon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22, 48-43, 78-68, 108-103.

BUTCH

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"I had to be in the lead at the start of the race, so I will be the first one to make it to the trails. The trails were very tricky and technical and you have to be there ahead of the main pack, so you will not be stranded. It's hard to move out of the trail if it's congested." Sublemente said.

He added it helped that he had been to the course a few days before the race and he was familiar with it because the same trails are used in XTERRA Saipan Championships.

The full course started at the upper parking lot of Palms Resort and from there, riders headed up to Marianas Resort until reaching the T-intersection. The riders turned right to the coral road near the 1,000,000 gallon water tank, made a left turn to another coral road and continued past the FEBC road until reaching one more T-intersection, leading to the right side of a paved road.

From the pave road, riders had an uphill climbed and turned to Kimikaze Trail, then to the paved road, leading to Autobahn Trail, and hit another paved road, leading to Santa Claus lane. From Santa Clause, riders entered another T-intersection, turned right toward Cowtown, past the raceway then to Banzai Cliff. Riders' next route was another paved road to one more T-intersection, leading to the Last Command Post. From the Last Command Post, bikers turned left to the FEBC road, continued past FEBC to the T-intersection (top of the hill), then turned right to coral road, the T-intersection near the 1,000,000 gallon tank and headed back to the starting line.

In the women's division, Kimiko Hasegawa defeated Jackie Van Dam with the former recording 1:15:29 against the latter's 1:15:43.

In the short course, which had the same route as the full, but riders needed not to climb back to FEBC, Bob Ferrer timed in at 52:26 to top the men's division. Al Fernandez checked in at second place with his time of 57:02, while Florence Antonio finished third at 59:25.

In the women's division, Maricel Mahilum crossed the finish line first at the 1:05:04 mark, followed by Elizabeth Church (1:19:47), and Michelle Duty (1:32:05).

In the rookie course, which had riders heading back to the finish line after coming down from FEBC, Shogo Ando and Kathy Pagapular ruled the men's and women's divisions, respectively.

Ando completed the shortest course in the Northern Passage in 25:44 to prevail over Ronald Lanuza (29:32) and Russel Bagasala (32:48). Pagapular timed in at 47:42, beating Kathryn Barry, who posted 52:38.

The youngest rider in the race, five-year-old Alexander Bateman, joined the short course and clocked in at 41:52

Sixty-three riders competed in the inaugural Northern Passage and only one did not finish the race, as Dawn Hammermeister had troubles with her bike's screw only a few minutes after she took off from the starting line.

Tinian's Joshua Manglona finished the race despite figuring in a crash and flat tire. Manglona said he was entering the first trail when suddenly his front tire ran out of air, forcing him to crash to the rubbles. He sustained bruises to his left ribs and is hoping these will heal before the XTERRA and Tagaman races next month.

Other riders also got bruises from the trails, but other than that bikers enjoyed a relatively easy race under a good weather.

RACE

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Also getting NMASA's nods were youth players Mikayla Lopez and Raphael Zapanta.

Lopez earned the NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Month for January after topping three divisions in the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge.

The 11-year-old netter prevailed in Level 3 and was runner-up in Level 4 singles event of last month's tournament and also joined and won the women's 3.0 adults singles competition of the same netfest.

Zapanta was named Male Student Athlete of the Month after securing the 2009 SBA/ Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes title last month.

The Saipan Southern High School student ruled Saipan Bowling Association's season-finale roll off, besting five other youth bowlers, including his 2008 tormentor Leeanne Yarobwemal.

Zapanta topped the six-game qualifying roll-off with his 978 pinfalls and 163 average then downed Yarobwemal in the two-game finals, 336-309, to avenge his loss two years ago and took the coveted Prince crown.

TINIAN

From Page 28

135-lb bout against Saipan's Jason Teregeyo. Manglona will be tested against Saipan's Ben Duenas; Carl Cepeda against Guam's Mike Taitano; Enriguez against Saipan's Frank Demapan; Borja against Guam's Frank Benavente; and Pete Cepeda against Saipan's Denri Mality. Untalan's foe has yet to be determined.

Other supporting bouts this Friday are Saipan's Derrick Manglona vs. Josh Cruz; Kev Estevez vs. Mark Nuque; and Jay Muna vs. Brad Palacios. Rick San Nicholas is also set to appear in the preliminary bouts, but his opponent has yet to be named.

After the Tinian show, there will be three fights in the main event, featuring Korean Top Team fighters against Saipan combatants.

"Young Nam "The Hippo" Gu will go up against Chris "No Luv" Laayug 145-lb fight, Kang "Dr. Kang" Bum Chang will duel Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse in a 155-lb bout, and Hyun Kyu "The Ace" Lim will challenge Slade "The Rage" Adelbai in a a 180-lb tiff.

Official weigh-ins will be held on Thursday at Club V from 5pm to 7pm. All fighters are required to be present for weigh-ins and rules briefing. They must also sign waivers and contracts before the fights.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	16	.667	–
Toronto	27	23	.540	6
New York	19	31	.380	14
Philadelphia	19	31	.380	14
New Jersey	4	46	.080	29

Southeast Division

Orlando	33	17	.660	–
Atlanta	32	17	.653	1/2
Charlotte	24	25	.490	8 1/2
Miami	24	27	.471	9 1/2
Washington	17	32	.347	15 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	41	11	.788	–
Chicago	24	25	.490	15 1/2
Milwaukee	23	26	.469	16 1/2
Indiana	18	33	.353	22 1/2
Detroit	17	32	.347	22 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	31	19	.620	–
San Antonio	29	20	.592	1 1/2
Houston	27	23	.540	4
New Orleans	27	24	.529	4 1/2
Memphis	26	24	.520	5

Northwest Division

Denver	34	17	.667	–
Utah	31	18	.633	2
Oklahoma City	29	21	.580	4 1/2
Portland	30	23	.566	5
Minnesota	13	38	.255	21

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	39	13	.750	–
Phoenix	31	21	.596	8
L.A. Clippers	21	29	.420	17
Sacramento	16	33	.327	21 1/2
Golden State	13	36	.265	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

New Orleans 104, Charlotte 99
Atlanta at Washington, ppd., snow
Detroit 99, New Jersey 92
Cleveland 113, New York 106
Chicago 95, Miami 91
Minnesota 109, Memphis 102
Philadelphia 102, Houston 95
Milwaukee 93, Indiana 81
Utah 116, Denver 106
L.A. Lakers 99, Portland 82
Oklahoma City 104, Golden State 95
San Antonio 98, L.A. Clippers 81

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	38	384	327	1130	29.7
Durant, OKC	49	481	422	1455	29.7
James, CLE	51	505	400	1501	29.4
Bryant, LAL	51	527	302	1426	28.0
Wade, MIA	50	476	343	1349	27.0
Ellis, GOL	46	478	219	1217	26.5
Nowitzki, DAL	49	436	324	1225	25.0
Bosh, TOR	50	430	343	1209	24.2
Roy, POR	40	328	213	924	23.1
Johnson, ATL	49	420	146	1073	21.9
Stoudemire, PHX	52	413	274	1100	21.2
Maggette, GOL	46	304	335	953	20.7
Randolph, MEM	49	405	195	1011	20.6
Evans, SAC	44	329	222	904	20.5
Jackson, CHA	48	358	199	985	20.5
Kaman, LAC	43	362	142	866	20.1
Lee, NYK	49	409	159	977	19.9
Rose, CHI	48	402	143	952	19.8
Gay, MEM	47	352	185	926	19.7
Duncan, SAN	45	347	192	886	19.7

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	219	353	.620
Howard, ORL	290	483	.600
Gasol, MEM	273	460	.593
Hilario, DEN	266	457	.582
Bynum, LAL	304	534	.569
Haywood, WAS	185	330	.561
Horford, ATL	274	489	.560
Millsap, UTA	219	391	.560
O'Neal, CLE	212	381	.556
Lee, NYK	409	737	.555

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	50	182	488	670	13.4
Camby, LAC	48	157	424	581	12.1
Noah, CHI	46	176	376	552	12.0
Lee, NYK	49	126	439	565	11.5
Randolph, MEM	49	213	350	563	11.5
Bosh, TOR	50	152	420	572	11.4
Wallace, CHA	46	95	410	505	11.0
Duncan, SAN	45	149	337	486	10.8
Boozer, UTA	45	86	396	482	10.7
Haywood, WAS	48	196	300	496	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Nash, PHX	52	576	11.1
Rondo, BOS	47	462	9.8
Williams, UTA	43	419	9.7
Kidd, DAL	49	455	9.3
James, CLE	51	417	8.2
B. Davis, LAC	49	387	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	49	365	7.4
Wade, MIA	50	319	6.4
Jennings, MIL	48	301	6.3

NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP) – Scores Saturday from the Northern Trust Open, a $6.4 million US PGA Tour event at 7,325-yard, par-71 (35-36) Riviera Country Club:

PARTIAL THIRD ROUND

Luke Donald	68-70-66–204
J.B. Holmes	68-69-67–204
George McNeill	70-69-66–205
Alex Prugh	71-69-66–206
Steve Marino	70-67-69–206
Scott Verplank	68-74-65–207
Brandt Snedeker	66-72-69–207
Kevin Sutherland	69-71-68–208
Ernie Els	68-70-70–208
John Rollins	71-71-67–209
Ryuji Imada	73-68-68–209
Paul Goydos	69-72-68–209
Stewart Cink	71-71-67–209
Jim Furyk	71-70-68–209
Y.E. Yang	71-70-68–209
Charlie Wi	72-68-69–209
Bo Van Pelt	70-70-69–209
Charley Hoffman	68-71-70–209
Phil Mickelson	72-66-71–209
Brian Davis	72-70-68–210
John Merrick	70-72-68–210
Kevin Na	72-67-71–210
Bryce Molder	71-68-71–210
Michael Allen	69-70-71–210
Briny Baird	70-72-69–211
Robert Allenby	72-69-70–211
D.A. Points	69-72-70–211
Rich Beem	74-69-68–211
Brenden Pappas	71-68-72–211
Michael Letzig	71-72-68–211
Jason Bohn	69-75-67–211
Troy Matteson	68-69-74–211
Jeff Overton	70-71-71–212
Marc Leishman	71-71-70–212
Tim Clark	69-72-71–212
Matt Kuchar	69-71-72–212
Webb Simpson	70-73-69–212
Stuart Appleby	71-71-71–213
Chad Campbell	70-72-71–213
Fred Couples	69-72-72–213
Jonathan Byrd	68-74-71–213
Woody Austin	71-72-70–213
Rod Pampling	70-70-73–213
Jimmy Walker	71-72-71–214
J.J. Henry	70-73-71–214
K.J. Choi	71-72-71–214
Aaron Baddeley	72-72-70–214
Greg Chalmers	71-73-70–214
Roland Thatcher	68-73-74–215
Brett Quigley	70-73-72–215
D.J. Trahan	72-71-72–215
Vaughn Taylor	73-70-72–215
Angel Cabrera	71-73-71–215
Nicholas Thompson	69-73-74–216
Ben Curtis	73-68-75–216
Kevin Streelman	69-73-74–216
Craig Bowden	69-74-73–216
Steve Flesch	73-70-73–216
Mark Wilson	72-72-72–216
Parker McLachlin	71-73-72–216
Matt Bettencourt	70-74-72–216
Nick O'Hern	69-74-74–217
Bob Estes	72-72-73–217
Fredrik Jacobson	68-74-76–218
Rory Sabbatini	68-74-77–219
David Duval	68-75-76–219
Ryan Moore	70-74-75–219
Bill Lunde	72-72-75–219
Cameron Beckman	67-77-76–220

Failed to complete third round

Steve Stricker	67-65–132
Andres Romero	65-69–134
Kevin Stadler	65-71–136
Dustin Johnson	64-67–131
Anthony Kim	71-66–137
Tim Wilkinson	69-67–136
Ryo Ishikawa	68-68–136
Ricky Barnes	66-71–137
Justin Rose	69-67–136
Justin Leonard	71-73–144
Martin Laird	72-72–144
Richard S. Johnson	74-70–144

Leaderboard at time of suspended play

	SCORE	THRU
Steve Stricker	-14	14
Luke Donald	-9	F
Andres Romero	-9	14
George McNeill	-8	F
J.B. Holmes	-8	16
Kevin Stadler	-8	15
Dustin Johnson	-8	14
Alex Prugh	-7	F
Anthony Kim	-7	16
Steve Marino	-7	17
Tim Wilkinson	-7	15
Scott Verplank	-6	F
Brandt Snedeker	-6	17
Ricky Barnes	-6	16
Kevin Sutherland	-5	F
Ernie Els	-5	17
Justin Rose	-5	15
Ryo Ishikawa	-5	16

Due to darkness plays was suspended

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Veterans regain form

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The old and experienced athletes still have the stuff to make it to the top.

After a lackluster performance in the past months, veteran golfer Jess Wabol found his old tough form to rule the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. Golf Fundraising Tournament.

Wabol, a more than 20-year veteran of on and off-island golf tournaments, prevailed in both the double-peoria and low gross events in the fundraiser played at the Laolao Bay Golf Resot on Jan. 30. He shot a 5-under par 67 to post the best lowest gross score among 69 players. Subracting his -1.20 handicap based on 12 hidden holes, Wabol ended up with a net score of 68.20, also the lowest in the field.

Duplicating Wabol's feat was longtime CNMI tennis coach Jeff Race, who took the men's open singles title in the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge against a younger field.

Race defeated Micronesian Games gold medalist Todd Montgomery in the semifinals and Peter Loyola in the finals to reign in the men's open division, which also had junior players Rafael Jones and Benjie Decena as participants.

Junior netter Ji Hoon Heo missed the Tennis Challenge, but made waves in New Zealand after winning his first two matches in Auckland. His victories moved Heo up to the Junior ITF rankings.

Heo earned 15 ranking points for making it to the third round of the tournament and from No. 833 he is now ranked No. 752 in the world. At the start of the year before leaving for New Zealand, Heo occupied the No. 1,124 in the rankings.

In indoor volleyball, Guam picked up where it left off in 2008, ruling Jam Attack, which returned in action this year after being shelved in 2009.

Team Haggan swept Saipan's Fanians in the men's finals to give Guam its fifth straight division title in the same event. Guam teams won the Jam Attack from 2005 to 2008.

In the women's division, Team Quality also swept Saipan's Margaritas in straight sets for the visitors' double celebration.

In basketball, the PILCOWA caging entered its finals week with Ebisuya and University of Loyola squaring off for the masters division crown and Noni Saipan dueling Saipan Fresh Market in the open division. Noni went on to sweep Saipan Fresh, while Ebisuya and Loyola split the first two games in the best-of-three finals.

Still in basketball, lopsided wins marked the opening of the 2010 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League with Sonics, GEC Pawnshop, and Rollers routing separates foes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guam's Team Quality pose for a group photo before the start of Jam Attack indoor volleyball tournament at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jess Wabol is flanked by SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi, left, and treasurer Walter Macaranas during the awards ceremony for the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. Golf Fundraising Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Fresh Market's Lerio Pagarao battles Noni Saipan's Ivan De Vero, left, and Banjo Basila for the loose ball during Game 1 of their title series in the open division of the PILCOWA caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jeff Race in action during his finals game against Peter Loyola in the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge at the AMP tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
University of Loyola's Danny Bicera goes for a reverse layup during their semis game against Wushin Corp. in the masters division of the PILCOWA caging at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ebisuya's William Opone challenges the defense of Loyola's Ed Cosino during Game 1 of their title series in the masters division of the PILCOWA caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here serving during a local tournament, gained ranking points in New Zealand.

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Noni sweeps Saipan Fresh

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Noni Saipan pose for a group photo after sweeping Saipan Fresh Market in their title series on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court. Right, University of Loyola's Ed Cosino is fouled by Ebisuya's William Opone during Game 2 of their title series in the masters division.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Noni Saipan survived Saipan Fresh Markets's gallant stand in the last two minutes of Game 2 to eke out a 108-103 victory and sweep their title series in the open division of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Bon Tamayo went 6-for-6 from the foul line to save the day for Noni and foil Saipan Fresh's bid to extend the best-of-three finals series. Noni won Game 1, 96-87, and seemed headed for an easy victory in Game 2 when it comfortably led by as much as 16, before Saipan made a rally in the stretch, cutting the lead to as low as one point.

Going into the last 2:16, Noni was still ahead by nine, 101-92, when Lerio Pagarao anchored a short 7-0 run to move within two, 99-101, 1:28 left on the clock. Noni lost the ball in the next play, giving Saipan Fresh a chance to either tie the game or take the lead, but Ryan Sanciangco missed on his drive to the left wing. Sanciangco went on to muff two more shots in the paint that could have spelled the difference in the match.

A split from Kae Bernardo temporarily stopped the bleeding for Noni, 102-99, but Saipan Fresh threatened anew on James Villacrusis' uncontested layup, 101-102, with 38 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Saipan Fresh opted to give up a foul in Noni's next possession to stop the clock, but sent the wrong guy—Tamayo—to the stripe. Tamayo calmly sank two charities off a Sanciangco foul, giving Noni a 104-101 lead, 27 seconds to in the final canto.

Saipan Fresh sued for time, but failed to execute a play when Francis Rebuyon, cold from the bench replacing the fouled out Sanciangco, lost Villacrusis' inbound pass.

Tamayo put the final nail on Saipan Fresh's coffin, drilling four more free throws in the next plays.

After a deadlock in the first period, 22-all, Noni Saipan went on cruise control in the last four minutes of the second quarter and life became much easier for the eventual champion when Jun Estolas left the game due

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Tinian fighters to show force in Fearless

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rites of Passage 8: Fearless will be a Tinian show, as the island will have its seven combatants fighting in supporting bouts for Trench Tech's first fight of the year.

Fearless, which will be staged this Friday at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort, will feature the debuts of Tinian's George Manglona, Gerry Mundo, Carl and Pete Cepeda, Sigfried Enriquez, and Craig Borja. All six are fighting out of Josh Castro's Zengzung, which means shake in Chinese. Joining them for Friday's event is Johmar Untalan, who is now based on Saipan, but is still representing Tinian.

"It seems Keli 'Rukis' Manglona started an MMA craze down there (Tinian)," said Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez.

Manglona is the first winner of an MMA title bout in the CNMI and his exploits in the octagon cage has inspired other Tinian fighters to go to Saipan and show their MMA skills, too.

In Fearless, Tinian fighters will be pitted against either Saipan or Guam combatants. Jerry Mundo will have his baptism of fire in a

See TINIAN on Page 26

Butch busts out at Northern Passage

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The inaugural Northern Passage is now history with veteran Butch Sublemente owning a page in the record books of the mountain bike race after ruling Saturday's event.

Sublemente negotiated the full trail course in less than an hour, timing in at 56 minutes and eight seconds to beat Tyce Mister and Kieran Daly. Mister ended up in second place after clocking in at 58:57, while Daly submitted 59:27 to settle for third place.

Sublemente, who was among the more than 10 Pacific Islands Club employees who joined the first Northern Passage, led from start to finish to beat more than 30 bikers in the full course.

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Butch Sublemente gestures as he nears the finish line of the Northern Passage mountain bike race on Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Race leads top performers for January

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After turning back the hands of time in last month's tennis tournament, CNMI coach Jeff Race was named NMASA Male Athlete of the Month for January, joining two other top performers.

Race, who will be turning 50 this year, defeated much younger foes in the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge to rule the men's open division of the tournament played last month at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup non-playing captain first downed Micronesian Games gold medalist and former NCAA standout Todd Montgomery in the semifinals in three sets. Race took the first set, 6-2, but failed to sweep Montgomery, who eked out a 7-5 win in the second set.

Playing against a foe younger than him by more than 15 years, Race proved he still had enough juice to make it to the championship after edging Montgomery in the deciding third set, 10-7.

Race then thwarted another younger opponent in Peter Loyola in the finals, 6-4,6-4, to claim the men's open title.

With his victory, Race was feted the first monthly plum for 2010 during NMASA's monthly meeting on Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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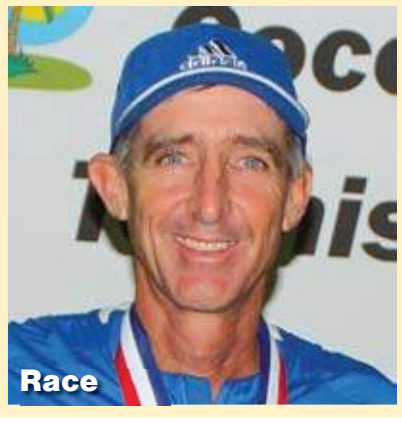
Lopez

Zapanta


Race